



THE THIRD ARAB CODEX COLLOQUIUM

11-13 June 2024, Amman, Jordan

Review of Outputs of Key Codex Committees (2024)

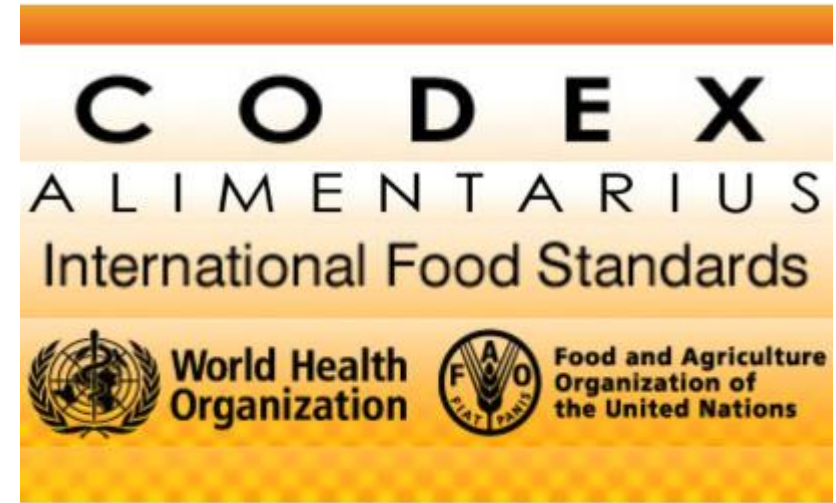
The 28th Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils

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OUTLINE

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



BACKGROUND

The 28th Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils

- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 19 to 23 February 2024
- Overall number of participants were 37 members
- 7 Arab countries (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia)
- 1 observers
- 12 NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS



PRIORITY AGENDA ITEMS

A. Agenda Item 2: Matters referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies

B. Agenda Item 3: Consideration of the recommendations of the Reports of the 90th and 91st Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

C. Agenda Item 4.4: Proposed draft amendment/revision to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CXS 210-1999): Inclusion of high oleic acid soya bean oil

D. Agenda Item 5: Proposed draft revision to the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils (CXS 33-1981): Revision of Sections 3, 8 and Appendix

E. Agenda Item 6: Proposed draft amendment/revision of the Standard for Fish Oils (CXS 329-2017): Inclusion of Calanus oil

F. Agenda Item 7: Review of the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes (Appendix II to CXC 36-1987)

G. Agenda Item 8.1: Discussion paper on possible work that CCFO could undertake to reduce TFAs or eliminate PHOs

H. Agenda Item 8.2: Consideration of the proposals for NEW WORK (replies to CL 2021/96-FO)

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

A. Agenda Item 2: Matters referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies

1. Review of Standards and Guidelines*: The committee discussed the need for updating various standards and guidelines based on feedback from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies. This included considering new scientific evidence and technological advancements.

2. Coordination with Other Committees: Emphasis was placed on coordinating with other Codex committees to ensure consistency and avoid duplication of efforts. There was a specific mention of collaborating with the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) and the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) to align standards and maximum levels for certain substances in fats and oils.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

A. Agenda Item 2: Matters referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies – cont.

3. Harmonization of International Standards: Discussions highlighted the importance of harmonizing international standards to facilitate global trade and protect consumer health. The committee reviewed recommendations to ensure that Codex standards are in line with those of other international bodies, such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

4. Feedback from Member Countries: The committee considered inputs and concerns raised by member countries. Key points included the need for clearer guidelines on the use of specific additives and contaminants in fats and oils and addressing issues related to food fraud and adulteration.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

A. Agenda Item 2: Matters referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies

5. Technical Amendments and Updates: There were technical amendments and updates proposed for existing standards, particularly in the context of new analytical methods and detection technologies. The committee discussed the adoption of these amendments to improve the accuracy and reliability of testing.

6. Future Work and Priorities: The committee outlined its future work and priorities, emphasizing the continuous review and improvement of standards. It was noted that emerging issues, such as the impact of climate change on oil crops and new processing technologies, would be critical areas of focus.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

A. Agenda Item 2: Matters referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies

- Positions and comments presented by Arab countries:

Egypt's contributions to discussions on the inclusion of new types of oils and the amendments to existing standards, emphasizing the importance of aligning these standards with regional trade and health policies.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 2: Matters referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies – cont.

- Committee recommendations
 - Standards Revision: Agreed to submit new work proposals on reducing trans-fatty acids (TFAs) and developing a standard for microbial Omega-3 oils
 - Food Additives and Labelling: Endorsed amendments related to labelling provisions for non-retail containers and discussed the technological justification for certain food additives
 - Methods of Analysis: Decided to review the methods for determining gamma oryzanol in rice bran oil for future endorsement

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 3: Consideration of the recommendations of the Reports of the 90th and 91st Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

- **Highlights of Discussions**

The committee considered the recommendations of the reports from the 90th and 91st meetings of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). Key points included the evaluation of various food additives and contaminants, their safety, and the proposed maximum levels for these substances in food products. Specific discussions revolved around methods of analysis for determining food additive levels and the technological justification for the use of certain additives in fats and oils.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 3: Consideration of the recommendations of the Reports of the 90th and 91st Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

Positions and comments presented by Arab countries:

During the session, Saudi Arabia played an active role. Specifically, Saudi Arabia co-chaired an electronic working group (EWG) with Canada. This group focused on developing proposals for revisions to Codex standards on fats and oils, aiming to reduce trans-fatty acid (TFA) intake.

- Committee recommendations
- Etc.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 3: Consideration of the recommendations of the Reports of the 90th and 91st Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

- Committee recommendations

1. Approval of New Work on Microbial Omega-3 Oils: The proposal for a new standard for microbial Omega-3 oils was approved, with the establishment of a new EWG to prepare the draft standard.

2. Reduction of Trans-Fatty Acids (TFAs): A proposal to revise Codex standards to reduce TFA intake was approved. An EWG chaired by Canada and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia was established to draft these revisions.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 3: Consideration of the recommendations of the Reports of the 90th and 91st Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

3.No Technological Justification for Certain Additives: The committee agreed that there was no technological justification for the use of chlorophylls and paprika extract in certain vegetable oils and fats, as their use could mislead consumers about the product quality.

4.Food Standards and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs): The committee indicated that future work would consider the impact of food standards on reducing NCD risk factors, aligning with global health and nutrition goals.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 4.4: Proposed draft amendment/revision to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CXS 210-1999): Inclusion of high oleic acid soya bean oil

- Highlights of discussions

The committee discussed the technological benefits of including high oleic acid soybean oil in the standard, emphasizing its enhanced oxidative stability and health benefits due to lower saturated fat content. There was broad support for the amendment, with detailed discussions on the specific fatty acid composition and the need for consistent global standards.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 4.4: Proposed draft amendment/revision to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CXS 210-1999): Inclusion of high oleic acid soya bean oil

- Positions and comments presented by Arab countries
- Egypt and Saudi Arabia actively participated in the discussions. They emphasized the importance of aligning the standard with regional agricultural practices and trade requirements. They also supported the health benefits and technological advantages of high oleic acid soybean oil, which align with their national health policies.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 4.4: Proposed draft amendment/revision to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CXS 210-1999): Inclusion of high oleic acid soya bean oil

- Committee recommendations
- 1. Adoption of the Amendment: The committee recommended the inclusion of high oleic acid soybean oil in the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils.
- 2. Establishment of Specifications: Detailed specifications for fatty acid composition and other quality parameters were outlined and agreed upon.
- 3. Further Studies and Data Collection: The committee suggested continuous data collection and studies to monitor the implementation and effects of the new inclusion on global trade and health.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 5: Proposed draft revision to the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils (CXS 33-1981): Revision of Sections 3, 8 and Appendix

- Highlights of discussions
 - Emphasis on updating standards to reflect advancements in olive oil production and ensure consumer protection.
 - Debates around proposed revisions to Sections 3 (Definitions), 8 (Labelling), and the Appendix (Methods of Analysis).

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 5: Proposed draft revision to the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils (CXS 33-1981): Revision of Sections 3, 8 and Appendix

- Positions and comments presented by Arab countries
 - Arab countries expressed support for revisions that would enhance the quality and authenticity of olive oils, particularly in labeling practices to prevent misrepresentation.
 - Some Arab nations emphasized the importance of preserving traditional methods of olive oil production while integrating modern standards.
 - CRD13 (Burundi, Ghana, India, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates)
 - CRD20 (Syrian Arab Republic)
 - CRD30 (Morocco)

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 5: Proposed draft revision to the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils (CXS 33-1981): Revision of Sections 3, 8 and Appendix

- Committee recommendations
 - The committee recommended adopting revisions to Sections 3, 8, and the Appendix to align with industry best practices and address emerging challenges in olive oil production and trade.
 - Recommendations included establishing clearer definitions, enhancing labeling requirements, and updating analytical methods to ensure accuracy and consistency in product evaluation.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 6: Proposed draft amendment/revision of the Standard for Fish Oils (CXS 329-2017): Inclusion of Calanus oil

- Highlights of discussions
 - Discussions focused on the proposed inclusion of Calanus oil into the Standard for Fish Oils (CXS 329-2017).
 - Consideration of the unique properties and composition of Calanus oil compared to traditional fish oils.
 - Debates regarding the adequacy of existing standards to accommodate this novel oil source and its potential impact on labeling and quality assurance.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 6: Proposed draft amendment/revision of the Standard for Fish Oils (CXS 329-2017): Inclusion of Calanus oil

- Positions and comments presented by Arab countries
 - Arab countries expressed interest in exploring the inclusion of Calanus oil into the standard, acknowledging its potential nutritional benefits and rising popularity in certain markets.
 - Some Arab nations emphasized the need for comprehensive safety and quality assessments to ensure consumer protection and regulatory compliance.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 6: Proposed draft amendment/revision of the Standard for Fish Oils (CXS 329-2017): Inclusion of Calanus oil

- Committee recommendations
 - The committee recommended conducting further research and risk assessments on Calanus oil to evaluate its safety, nutritional profile, and potential impacts on existing standards.
 - Recommendations included establishing specific criteria for the inclusion of novel oil sources into the standard and developing guidelines for labeling and quality assurance protocols tailored to Calanus oil.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 7: Review of the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes (Appendix II to CXC 36-1987)

- Highlights of discussions
 - Discussions revolved around the review of the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes, which is part of Appendix II to CXC 36-1987.
 - Consideration of new scientific evidence, technological advancements, and industry practices influencing the acceptability of previous cargoes.
 - Debates regarding the need to update the list to reflect changing trade patterns, emerging contaminants, and evolving food safety concerns.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 7: Review of the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes (Appendix II to CXC 36-1987)

- Positions and comments presented by Arab countries
 - Arab countries advocated for a thorough review of the list to ensure it aligns with current scientific understanding and international best practices.
 - Some Arab nations emphasized the importance of considering regional trade dynamics and specific challenges faced by countries in the Middle East and North Africa region.
 - Concerns were raised about the potential presence of contaminants in previous cargoes and the need for stringent monitoring and control measures.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 7: Review of the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes (Appendix II to CXC 36-1987)

- Committee recommendations

- The committee recommended conducting a comprehensive review of the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes to incorporate updated scientific evidence and address emerging food safety concerns.

- Recommendations included collaborating with relevant stakeholders, such as industry representatives and scientific experts, to gather input and ensure a balanced approach to revising the list.

- Emphasis was placed on enhancing risk assessment methodologies and establishing clear criteria for the inclusion and exclusion of previous cargoes based on safety and quality considerations.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 8.1: Discussion paper on possible work that CCFO could undertake to reduce TFAs or eliminate PHOs

- Highlights of discussions
 - Discussions centered around potential actions the CCFO (Codex Committee on Fats and Oils) could take to reduce trans fatty acids (TFAs) or eliminate partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs) from food products.
 - Consideration of regulatory approaches, voluntary industry initiatives, and public health strategies aimed at reducing TFAs and promoting healthier fat alternatives.
 - Debates regarding the feasibility, effectiveness, and potential challenges associated with various proposed measures.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 8.1: Discussion paper on possible work that CCFO could undertake to reduce TFAs or eliminate PHOs

- Positions and comments presented by Arab countries
 - Arab countries expressed support for initiatives to reduce TFAs and eliminate PHOs, emphasizing the importance of protecting consumer health and promoting healthier dietary choices.
 - Some Arab nations highlighted the need for international cooperation and capacity-building efforts to assist countries in transitioning away from PHOs and adopting healthier fat alternatives.
 - Concerns were raised about potential economic implications for countries heavily reliant on PHOs in food production and the importance of providing support for affected industries during the transition period.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 8.1: Discussion paper on possible work that CCFO could undertake to reduce TFAs or eliminate PHOs

- Committee recommendations
 - The committee recommended exploring a combination of regulatory measures, industry collaborations, and public awareness campaigns to reduce TFAs and eliminate PHOs from the food supply.
 - Recommendations included developing guidelines and best practices for reducing TFAs in processed foods, promoting the use of healthier oils in food production, and providing technical assistance to countries in reformulating their food products.
 - Emphasis was placed on monitoring progress, conducting regular reviews of TFA levels in food products, and sharing successful strategies and lessons learned among Codex members to facilitate global efforts in reducing TFAs and promoting public health.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 8.2: Consideration of the proposals for NEW WORK (replies to CL 2021/96-FO)

- Highlights of discussions
 - Discussions revolved around considering proposals for new work, as outlined in replies to CL 2021/96-FO.
 - Consideration of various proposals related to the development of new Codex standards, guidelines, or amendments to existing standards in the field of fats and oils.
 - Debates regarding the relevance, urgency, feasibility, and potential impact of proposed new work items on food safety, quality, and trade facilitation.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 8.2: Consideration of the proposals for NEW WORK (replies to CL 2021/96-FO)

- Positions and comments presented by Arab countries
 - Arab countries expressed support for certain proposals aimed at addressing emerging issues and gaps in existing Codex standards related to fats and oils.
 - Some Arab nations emphasized the importance of prioritizing work items that align with regional needs and priorities, such as addressing specific challenges in the production, labeling, and trade of fats and oils in the Middle East and North Africa region.
 - Concerns were raised about the resource implications of taking on new work items and the need for effective coordination and collaboration among Codex members to ensure efficient progress.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item 8.2: Consideration of the proposals for NEW WORK (replies to CL 2021/96-FO)

- Committee recommendations

- The committee recommended prioritizing new work items that demonstrate clear benefits in terms of enhancing food safety, promoting trade, or addressing significant gaps in existing Codex standards.
- Recommendations included conducting thorough risk assessments, stakeholder consultations, and impact evaluations to inform decision-making on whether to proceed with proposed new work items.
- Emphasis was placed on ensuring transparency, inclusivity, and consensus-building throughout the process of selecting and developing new Codex standards or guidelines in the field of fats and oils.



Summary & Future Work

□ summary of recommendations to be considered by the CAC47.

1. Adoption of Revisions to Standards:

- Consider adopting revisions to standards for olive oils and olive pomace oils (CXS 33-1981) to reflect advancements in production and ensure consumer protection.

- Evaluate proposed draft amendments/revision of the standard for fish oils (CXS 329-2017) to include Calanus oil, ensuring safety and quality considerations are met.

2. Review of Acceptable Previous Cargoes:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes (Appendix II to CXC 36-1987) to incorporate updated scientific evidence and address emerging food safety concerns.



Summary & Future Work

□ summary of recommendations to be considered by the CAC47.

3.Reduction of TFAs and Elimination of PHOs:

- Explore regulatory measures, industry collaborations, and public awareness campaigns to reduce trans fatty acids (TFAs) and eliminate partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs) from the food supply.

- Provide technical assistance and support for countries transitioning away from PHOs to healthier fat alternatives.

4.Consideration of New Work Items:

- Prioritize new work items in the field of fats and oils that address emerging issues, enhance food safety, promote trade, and align with regional needs and priorities.

- Conduct thorough risk assessments, stakeholder consultations, and impact evaluations to inform decision-making on proposed new work items.

