

## Report of the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Arab Codex Contact Points

As part of the implementation of recommendation (4) of the 25th meeting report of the Arab Codex Contact Points, held virtually on Monday 27 May 2024, which states:

**“The 26th 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 05 September 2024 to prepare the meeting (27) of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS27), with the participation of representatives of the following Arab countries:

1. Jordan
2. UAE
3. Bahrain
4. Tunisia
5. Syria
6. Palestine
7. Libya
8. Egypt
9. Morocco
10. Yemen

As well as AIDSMO, and GForSS 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 27th meeting of Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS27) to be held in Cairns, Australia during the period 16 - 20 September 2024.

The meeting agenda items were approved as follows:

Agenda item	Subject
Item 1	<b>Opening Remarks and adoption of Agenda:</b> Arab Codex Initiative Coordinator
Item 2	<b>Review and analysis of agenda Items of Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS27)</b>

**Item 2: Review and analysis of agenda Items of Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS27)**

Prof. Samuel Godefroy reviewed the fifth item, addressing the background of the item as follows:

- CCFICS24 (October 2018) Initiated discussions on food integrity and authenticity and on the role of Codex, and particularly CCFICS, on added guidance to maintain food integrity and Authenticity – \_with a strong engagement from Codex membership
- CCFICS25 (May-June 2021) reviewed a discussion paper and a project document, making the case for new work: “Guidance on Food Fraud within the mandate of CCFICS” and recommended it to CAC44. CAC44 agreed to start such new work.
- CCFICS26 returned the draft to Step 2 and agreed to re-establish the EWG to draft the guidelines, considering comments made and items identified in square brackets
- CCFICS27 is to examine a revised version of the draft text with emphasis on areas identified with questions by the EWG.

Professor Samuel Godefroy also addressed a set of key considerations that include the following questions:

- **Question 1:** Whether para 6 Bis: “Fundamental to the successful functioning of any food fraud combatting strategy is the establishment and maintenance of anti-food fraud culture acknowledging the importance of human behaviors in protecting the integrity of the food supply chain and presenting food /feed in a manner so as not to deceive consumers.
- **Question 2:** Item in square bracket - mentioning the impact of food safety in relation with feed -related activities

- **Question 3:** What if Anything should be stated with respect to Geographical Indications (GI)
- **Question 4:** Should aspects related to the Investigation and Prosecution be included & 7bis: “The investigation and prosecution of food fraud offenses are outside of the scope of this guideline and need to be handled by countries under their respective laws”
- **Question 5:** which phrasing in square brackets should be retained: “integrity of fair trade or “fair practices trade practices”
- **Question 6:** redundancies between para “b” bis and” e”
- **Question 7:** Inclusion of 15 ter. On AI

This item witnessed several interventions, including the representatives of the following countries: Jordan, Egypt and Morocco.

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](http://www.Arabcodex.com)).
2. Thanking Prof. Samuel Godefroy/GFoRSS COO, for preparing and presenting analysis presentation of the agenda items of the 27th meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS27).
3. The 27th meeting of Arab CCPs will be held at a date to be determined later in coordination with GFoRSS.