

29th Meeting of the Codex Contact Points in the Arab Region

PREPARATION FOR THE 47TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

(CAC47)

Summary of Outcomes

17th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods

(CCCF17)

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October 31, 2024

Introduction

The Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) held its 17th Session, in Panama City, Panama, from **15 to 19 April 2024**.

This session was attended by **54 Member countries**, one Member organization and 7 Observer organizations, among which **6 Arab countries (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia)**.

A Conference Room Document (CRD41) was submitted by the International Union of Food Science Technology – IUFoST, prepared by the Group of Experts of the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS).

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Items 5, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16

CRD41
April 2024
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

17th Session
15-19 April 2024

Comments submitted by International Union of Food Science Technology - IUFoST¹

The objective of this conference room document (CRD) is to offer comments on behalf of the International Union for Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) an observer organization of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on various agenda items tabled at the 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF17).

These comments were prepared by the Group of Experts of the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS), the Disciplinary Group for of the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) and were endorsed by the Codex Committee of IUFoST.

The International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST), and its membership from more than 100 countries, is the only representative of Food Science and Technology, elected by its multi-disciplinary peers as a full member in the International Science Council (ISC).

Agenda Item 5: Maximum levels for lead in certain food categories (at Step 4)

IUFoST would like to thank the Electronic Working Group (EWG) chaired by Brazil for preparing the document and offers the following comments:

- IUFoST supports the establishment of MLs for lead in Spices and Culinary Herbs given the frequent consumption of these commodities in several diets, and the potential detrimental health impact of lead.
- IUFoST supports efforts aiming to promote consensus at CCCF17, to reach MLs for lead in the food categories under discussion, to prevent the discontinuation of work.
- IUFoST supports the approach followed to reach the proposed MLs, aiming to lower the exposure to "as low as reasonably achievable" (ALARA) and guided by rejection rates of samples that would not exceed 5%.
- IUFoST notes that the ALARA is particularly relevant considering that there is no safe level established by JECFA for Lead. IUFoST also notes the robustness of the analysis developed to reach the proposed MLs, given that data extracted from the GEMS/Food database represented 6 regions (AFRO, EMRO, EURO, PAHO, SEARO, WPRO) and 35 countries, which can be considered as a high geographical representativeness.

IUFoST encourages the following future action by members of Codex and the overall food scientific community:

- To generate occurrence data for lead in culinary herbs and spices which would support future submissions to the GEMS Food database.
- To ascertain the achievability of the proposed MLs through on-going food monitoring activities at national levels.
- To ascertain consultation with the food production sector on the possible impacts of the proposed MLs, particularly in terms of availability and price of food products.

¹ This CRD was prepared by the Group of Experts of the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS), the Disciplinary Group for of the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) and was reviewed and endorsed by the Codex Committee of IUFoST.

Agenda Item 5: Maximum levels for lead in certain food categories (at Step 4)

Forward for adoption at Step 5/8

- **ML of 0.9 mg/kg** for Spices, dried aril
- **ML of 0.9 mg/kg** for Spices, dried seeds, excluding celery seeds
- **ML of 1.5 mg/kg** for Spices, dried celery seeds
- **ML of 2.0 mg/kg** for Spices, dried rhizomes, and roots
- **ML of 2.5 mg/kg** for Spices, dried floral parts

- **ML of 0.6 mg/kg** for Spices, dried fruit, and berries, excluding dried Sichuan pepper, star anise, paprika and sumac
- **ML of 0.8 mg/kg** for Spices, dried paprika and sumac
- **ML of 3.0 mg/kg** for Spices, dried Sichuan pepper and star anise

Forward for adoption at Step 5

- **ML of 2.5 mg/kg** for Spices, dried bark
- Re-establish **EWG** chaired by Brazil “to consider new data collected”
- Request the JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data

- **ML of 2.5 mg/kg** for Spices, dried culinary herbs
- Request the JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data for lead in dried culinary herbs and that the **EWG** should consider new available data in their review.

Discontinue Work

- Spices, dried Flower

- Fresh culinary herbs

Agenda Item 6: Sampling plans for methylmercury in fish (at Step 4)

Agreed to the definition for the decision rule “the **accept/reject level** is a level usually equal to the Codex Maximum Level (ML)”.

Send the sampling plan to **CCMAS43** for endorsement.

Forward the sampling plan (Appendix III) to **CAC47** for adoption at **Step 5/8**.

Agenda Item 7: Definition for ready-to-eat peanuts for the establishment of a maximum level for total aflatoxins in this product

Definition: “Nuts, which are not intended to undergo an additional processing/treatment that has proven to reduce levels of aflatoxins before being used as an ingredient in foodstuffs, otherwise processed or offered for human consumption”.

Decisions:

- Apply existing definition of **RTE Tree nuts** in CXS 193 to **RTE Peanuts**;
- Establish an **EWG** chaired by India and co-chaired by USA, to develop **ML** for **Aflatoxins** in RTE Peanuts and association of sampling plan for comments by **CCCF18**;
- Request JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data with a guidance to specify the raw peanuts as RTE or FFP;
- Request GEMS/Food database administrator to clarify with the submitter whether the data currently identified as **unknown** were **RTE** or **FFP**.

Agenda Item 8: Sampling plans for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in certain spices (at Step 4)

Definitions:

- Spices with large particle sizes as whole nutmeg, dried chilli and paprika;
- Small particle size as crushed, cracked, broken and flakes in accordance with standards developed by CCSCCH;
- Powdered spices as spices obtained by define grinding.

Decisions:

- Forward the sampling plan to **CAC47** for adoption at **Step 5**;
- Re-establish an **EWG** chaired by India to continue the unfinished work for **one** more year to finalize the sampling plan at **CCCF18**; the revised sampling plan would be circulated for comments and consideration by CCCF18;
- Request **CCEXEC86** to extend the timeline for completion of work to **2025**.

Agenda Item 9: Code of practice/guidelines for the prevention and reduction of ciguatera poisoning (at Step 4)

Decisions:

- Forward the code of practice (CoP) for the prevention and reduction of ciguatera poisoning (Appendix V) to **CAC47** for adoption at **Step 5/8**;
- Request the Codex Secretariat to publish information on resources as information document (Appendix VI) with the relevant links.

Agenda Item 10: Pyrrolizidine alkaloids

Decisions:

- To further develop the discussion paper for the revision of the **CoP** to prevent and reduce Pyrrolizidine Alkaloid Contamination in Food and Feed (CXC 74-2014), also to address practices for honey and to provide the revised CoP as a **project document** to be discussed at **CCCF18**;
- To develop a guidance on sampling and analysis performance characteristics for the collection of data to be submitted to the GEMS/Food database.
- Establish **EWG** chaired by Türkiye, co-chaired by UK and Netherlands to develop the discussion paper.

Agenda Items 11 & 12

Agenda Item 11: Tropane alkaloids

Decisions:

- Re-establish a **EWG** chaired by China and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia to prepare a revised discussion paper including proposal for the new CoP and project document for consideration at **CCCCF18**;
- Request JECFA Secretariat to issue call for data on tropane alkaloid contamination in food and feed, with a guidance to indicate the stage of sampling.

Agenda Item 12: Acrylamide in foods

Decisions:

- Re-establish a **EWG** chaired by India and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia to develop a discussion paper with a proposal for a draft revised **CoP** and project document;
- Issue a CL to collect information on new risk management measures for the reduction of acrylamide.

Agenda Items 13 & 14

Agenda Item 13: *Cadmium and Lead in Quinoa*

Decision:

- Forward the **ML** of **0.15 mg/kg** for **cadmium** and **0.2 mg/kg** for **Lead** in Quinoa for adoption by **CAC47** (Appendix VII);

Agenda Item 14: *Review of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts (CXC 55-2004)*

Decisions:

- Forward the project document (Appendix VIII) to **CAC47** for approval;
- Establish **EWG** chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by India to prepare a proposed revision of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts for comments and consideration by **CCCF18**.

Agenda Items 15 & 16

Agenda Item 15: 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)*

Decisions:

- Re-establish **EWG** chaired by Canada and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia to revise the discussion paper with a proposal for a revised **CoP** and a project document for the new work;
- Consider in future how the different **CoPs** could be integrated or merged to avoid overlap, or inconsistencies.

Agenda Item 16: *Development of a Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods*

Decisions:

- Forward the project document to **CAC47** for approval (Appendix IX);
- Establish **EWG** chaired by USA develop a code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in food for comments and consideration at **CCCF18**.

