

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

54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA54)

Dr. Wiem GUISSOUMA, GForSS

October 31, 2024

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;



List of participants from the Arab region

Country	Name	Position	Organization	Location
ALGERIA	Mr. Smail Halfaoui	Foreign Affairs Advisor	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Algeria
EGYPT	Dr. Tareq Elhouby	Chairman	National Food Safety Authority	Cairo, Egypt
MOROCCO	Mr. Amine Mekkioui	Engineer in Food Process Regulation	National Food Safety Office	Rabat
SAUDI ARABIA	Mr. Fawzi Alhamdan	Regulatory and Standards Expert	Saudi Food and Drug Authority	Riyadh, KSA
SAUDI ARABIA	Ms. Bayan Altoaimi	Senior Risk Assessment Specialist	Saudi Food and Drug Authority	Riyadh, KSA

CRDs prepared by delegations from the Arab region, IUFoST

CRD Number	Submitted By	Agenda Items Covered	Summary of Comments
CRD25	Egypt	Agenda items 6 and 9	Supported updates to the INS list, excluding sodium ascorbate as a carrier and bacterial phycocyanin as a blue color until proper authorization. Supported the project for a standard on baker's yeast.
CRD31	IUFoST	Agenda items 3a, 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b, 6, 7, 8, and 9	Supported deletion of azodicarbonamide, alignment of Codex standards, and systematic GSFA updates. Advocated for a standard on baker's yeast and further discussions on alignment issues in GSFA.
CRD11	Morocco	Agenda item 5a	Proposed continuing discussions on the use of sweeteners in bread products, citing concerns about exposure due to bread's high consumption.

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Highlights and Decisions from CCFA54

Agenda Item 3



Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion	Decisions	Step
3(a)	Matters of Interest from FAO/WHO and 96th/97th JECFA	Issues highlighted included timely publication of JECFA reports, with updates on aspartame (SIN 951) and titanium dioxide (SIN 171). .reaffirmed ADIs for aspartame (INS 951) at 0-40 mg/kg bw and titanium dioxide (INS 171) as "not specified." The Codex Secretariat proposed a mechanism for ADI withdrawal and introduced the deletion of azodicarbonamide (INS 927a) due to outdated safety data.	forward to CAC47 for revocation of the provision for azodicarbonamide (INS 927a) from Tables 1 and 2 of the GSFA	Information
3(b)	Proposed Draft Specifications for Identity and Purity of Food Additives	Adopted specifications for several food additives based on 96th & 97th JECFA evaluations, including six additives and 36 flavoring agents. Issues raised on transparency in ADI withdrawal (e.g., azodicarbonamide).	forward full specifications for food additives to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8 and make the consequential amendment to the List of Codex Specifications for Food Additives	5/8

Highlights and Decisions from CCFA54

Agenda Item 4



Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion	Decisions	Step
4(a)	Endorsement and/or Revision of Maximum Levels for Food Additives	Endorsement of new and revised food additive provisions in the GSFA, including adoption for various categories such as fermented milks, canned mixed fruits, pickled cucumbers, and jams. Revision of International Numbering System (INS) for some additives also endorsed.	Endorsement proposals included three standards put forward by the codex committee on spices and culinary herbs (CCSCH) and the codex committee for processed fruits and vegetables (CCPFV).	Endorsement
4(b)	Alignment of Food Additive Provisions with GSFA	Recommendations included aligning food additives across 12 standards from committees on Milk and Milk Products, Processed Fruits and Vegetables, and regional standards (e.g., Laver Products, Yacon). Finalized steps for alignment to facilitate consistent use of additives across regions.	Forward to CAC47 for adoption: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revised food-additive sections for standards from CCMMP (Fermented Milks, Cream and Prepared Creams), CCPFV (Table Olives), and regional standards for Laver Products and Yacon. - Editorial corrections to the General Standard for Cheese. - Revised GSFA provisions for alignment with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two CCMMP standards, ▪ Four CCPFV standards (Processed Tomato Concentrates, Table Olives, Pickled Fruits and Vegetables, Quick Frozen Vegetables), ▪ Five regional standards (Harissa, Tempe, Date Paste, Laver Products). 	Adoption/Alignment

Highlights and Decisions from CCFA54

Item 5



Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion	Decisions	Step
5(a)	General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) - Report on New/Revised Provisions	Recommendations on horizontal approaches for sweeteners and colors, endorsing alternative notes for products.	Forward to CAC47 for adoption the updated food additive section in the Standard for Jams, Jellies, and Marmalades	8; 5/8
5(b)	Proposal for Discontinuation of Draft Food Additive Provisions	Discontinuation of certain draft food additive provisions in the GSFA (notably outdated or low-priority provisions). Included provisions for specific categories where alignment was not feasible.	forward to CAC47: Food additive provisions for revocation and proposed discontinuation of draft provisions in the GSFA Proposed draft food additive provisions for inclusion in the GSFA, at Step 2 for information.	Discontinuation/ Inclusion at Step 2

Highlights and Decisions from CCFA54

Item 6



Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion	Decisions	Step
6	Proposed Draft Revision to Class Names and the INS	Proposed revisions for Class Names and INS numbers to clarify additive functions and limit potential exposure risks. Included specific focus on carbomer (INS 1210), which was referred to future sessions for further review.	Forward to CAC47: - Proposals for revising Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives for adoption at Step 5/8 - Consequential amendments due to changing the INS number for gellan gum to INS 418(i), affecting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪The Standard for Aqueous Coconut Products▪The GSFA▪The List of Codex Specifications for Food Additives	5/8

Highlights and Decisions from CCFA54

Items 7;8;9



Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion & Decisions/Recs		Step
7	Proposals for Additions to the Priority List of Substances for JECFA Evaluation	Established priority substances for upcoming JECFA review, focusing on additives with emerging safety concerns or new technological justifications, like certain carotenoids and sweeteners.	forward the amended Priority List of Substances Proposed for Evaluation by JECFA for endorsement by CAC47	New Work

Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion	Decisions	Step
8	Discussion Paper on Divergence between GSFA and Commodity Standards	Identified outstanding issues and necessary alignment between GSFA and other Codex standards to reduce regulatory discrepancies. Emphasis on future harmonization strategies.	Discussions at CCFA55.	Discussion

Agenda Item	Subject	Key Discussion & Decisions/Recs		Step
9	Discussion Paper on Development of a Standard for Yeast	Recommended new work to develop a Codex standard for baker's yeast to harmonize international standards, addressing composition, moisture content, and quality factors.	submit to CAC47 the project document on the development of a standard for baker's yeast for new work for approval;	New Work

