

## Report of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Arab Codex Contact Points

As part of the implementation of recommendation (3) of the 26th meeting of the Arab Codex Contact Points, held virtually on Thursday 5 September 2024, which states:

**The 27th meeting of the Arab Codex Contact Points will be held at a date to be determined later in coordination with GForSS.**

This coordination meeting was held virtually on Thursday 10 October 2024 to prepare the meeting (27) of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF27), with the participation of representatives of the following Arab countries:

1. Jordan
2. United Arab Emirates
3. Bahrain
4. Sudan
5. Syria
6. Oman
7. Palestine
8. Libya
9. Egypt
10. Morocco
11. Yemen

As well as AIDSMO, GSO 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 to analyzing the agenda items of the 27<sup>th</sup> of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF27), To be held in Omaha, Nebraska, USA during the October 21-25, 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 Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF27)</b>
Item 3	<b>The 18th Dubai International Food Safety Conference</b>
Item 4	<b>Updates on the Arab Codex Initiative: Procedures Committee</b>

### Item 2: Review and analysis of agenda Items of Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF27)

This item was presented by Mr. Hadi Abdelati, Representative of Libya, as follows:

#### **Agenda Item 6 : MRLs for veterinary drugs in foods arising from JECFA98 (2024):**

- JECFA evaluated the safety of two veterinary drugs: Clopidol and fumagillin dicyclohexylamine
- JECFA completed the safety evaluation of: imidacloprid
- Although ethoxyquin was on the review list, it was not evaluated due to a lack of data from the sponsor.

#### General Comment and recommendation for Arab region:

- **Arab countries** should consider the adoption of JECFA's recommendations and guidelines for compounds clopidol, fumagillin dicyclohexylamine and also imidacloprid, which is essential for ensuring food safety and protecting public health in Arab countries.
- These guidelines, which include acceptable daily intakes (ADIs) and maximum residue limits (MRLs), provide a scientifically based framework for assessing the safety of veterinary drug residues in food products.
- **Arab countries** should pay particular attention to aligning their regulatory standards with the international best practices, to safeguard both animal and human health. However, national adoption will need to consider local uses and regulatory measures, agricultural practices, and specific public health concerns, requiring a thorough review and possible adaptation of JECFA's recommendations to suit the regional context.

#### **Agenda Item7: MRL extrapolation for veterinary drugs:**

#### General Comment and recommendations for Arab region:

- It would be appropriate to support the adoption of the proposed standards developed by the extrapolation approach Lufenuron and Emamectin benzoate at step 5/8 given the importance of establishing MRLs, especially for Arab countries for which Codex is considered as the reference for food standards.

- It would be appropriate to support EWG recommendations to continue the discussion on the MRL extrapolation approach for edible tissues given the limitations and concerns identified by the EWG.
- To address the absence of MRLs for camel products, it is recommended that Arab delegates encourage the adoption of the proposed extrapolation criteria and advocate for the inclusion of MRLs for camels in the CCRVDF priority lists. Additionally, it is important to encourage generation of data supporting the establishment of MRLs for camelid tissues alongside other species.

### **Agenda Item 8.1: Criteria and Procedures for the Establishment of Action Levels for Veterinary Drugs in Food of Animal Origin Resulting from Unavoidable and Unintentional Veterinary Drug Carry-Over in Non-Target Animal Feed:**

CCRVDF27 is invited to consider the recommendations below:

- The proposed approach to establishing action levels as presented in **Appendix I** (for comments).
- Pilot studies using nicarbazin and lasalocid residues in chicken eggs to illustrate the proposed approach (**Appendix II**).
- The alternative approach submitted by the United States of America as presented in **Appendix III** (for comments).

Should Codex members support the approach proposed by the EWG in Appendix I, consider whether the action levels proposed for nicarbazin and lasalocid in eggs in Appendix II, could be submitted for adoption by CAC47. The development of systematic, data-driven methodologies to address the longstanding issue of unintended veterinary drug carryover, including pilot studies and their outcomes, is highly commendable.

However, **Arab delegations may consider** supporting a more straightforward and practical risk management approach. This would help overcome:

- challenges related to data availability
- avoid barriers to trade due to setting very low action levels
- and make the solution more accessible to countries with varying levels of development.

### **Item 3: The 18th Dubai International Food Safety Conference**

This item was introduced by Professor Samuel Godefroy, who informed the meeting participants about the upcoming event of the 18th Dubai International Food Safety Conference, scheduled to be held from October 21-24 in Dubai, UAE. This conference will feature a series of scientific sessions moderated by the GFORSS, which will address key issues and developments in the field of food safety and the Codex Alimentarius.

### **Item 4: Arab Codex Initiative updates: Procedures Committee**

The Coordinator of the Arab Codex Initiative introduced this item, where he informed the meeting participants of the latest updates in the establishment of the Procedures Committee for the Arab Codex Initiative. They were also

informed that a date will be set soon for the first meeting of this committee, to discuss the next steps and determine the plan action to support the objectives of the initiative.

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 Mr. Hadi Abdelati, representative of Libya and the experts of the Arab Codex Initiative for preparing and presenting the items of the agenda of CCRVDF27.
3. The first meeting of the Procedures Committee will be held at a date to be determined in coordination with GFoRSS.
4. The 28th meeting of Arab CCPs will be held at a date to be determined later in coordination with GFoRSS.