

## 30th Meeting of the Codex Contact Points in the Arab Region

### PREPARATION FOR THE 47<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

**(CAC47)**

#### *Summary of Outcomes*

#### *43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling*

**(CCMAS43)**

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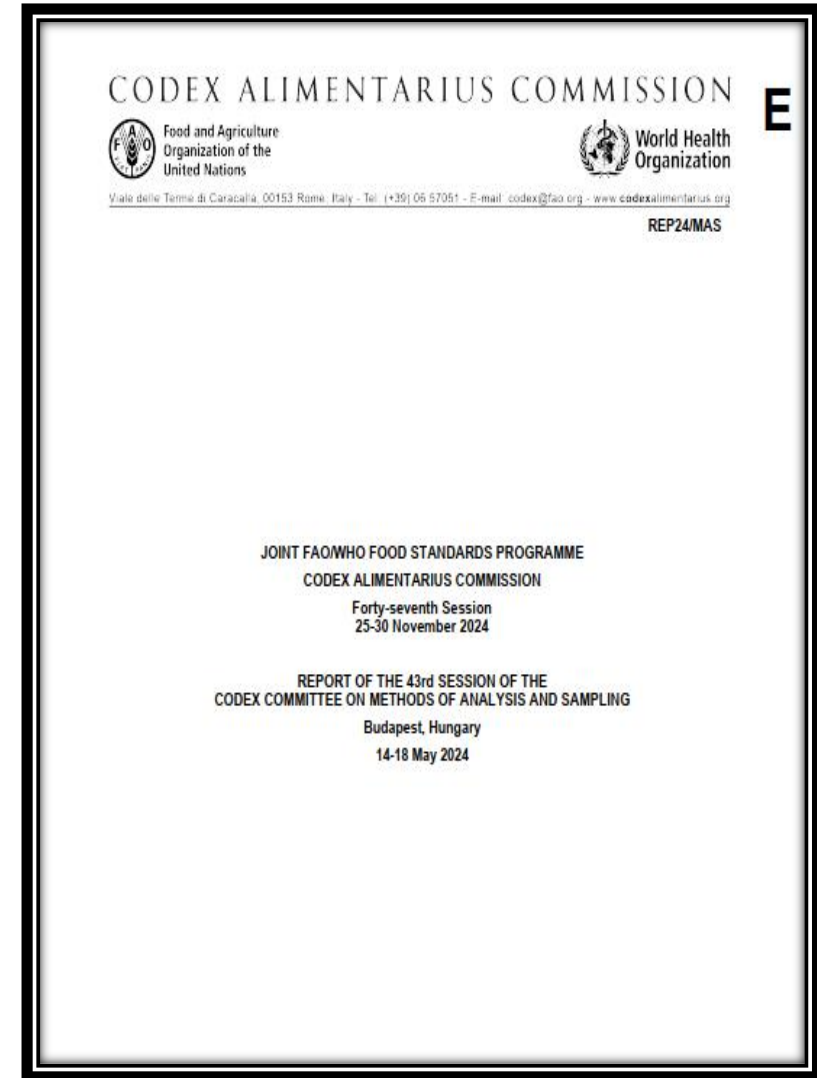
*November 13, 2024*

# Introduction

The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) held its 43<sup>rd</sup> Session, in Budapest, Hungary, from **14 to 18 May 2024**.

This session was attended by **54 Member countries**, one Member organization and 14 Observer organizations, among which **3 Arab countries (Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia)**.

**Matters on interests** included 1- Updating analysis methods for spices, oils, and various food categories, 2- Establishing sampling plans for contaminants like methylmercury, 3- Developing resources to aid food allergen labeling and global compliance.



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## Endorsement of Methods of Analysis for Key Foods

- **“CCFSCH7” Spices & Culinary Herbs:**
  - Reviewed and endorsed methods for quality assessment of turmeric, basil, saffron, nutmeg, and other spices, supporting trade and standardization.
  - Suggestions for method improvements to align with Codex standards.
- **“CCFO28” Oils (Olive and Pomace):**
  - Methods for quality components like iron (Fe) and copper (Cu) were revoked, while DAGs and PPPs were discussed but deferred for further review.
- **Next Steps:**
  - Ensuring endorsed methods align with Codex standards and requirements in international trade.

REP24/MAS

2

ENDORSEMENT OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS: CCSCH AND CCFO (Agenda item 3.1)<sup>4</sup>

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH7)

10. CCMAS43:

- endorsed the methods as recommended for endorsement in CRD03, Appendix I, Tables 1 - 9 for the following spices:
  - small cardamom
  - allspice, juniper berry and star anise
  - turmeric
  - dried or dehydrated ginger
  - cloves
  - dried basil
  - saffron
  - nutmeg
  - dried or dehydrated chilli pepper and paprika

Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO28)

11. CCMAS43:

- endorsed or proposed revocation of methods for olive oils and olive pomace oils as recommended in CRD03, Appendix II, Table 1 and for fish oils (calanus oil) in Table.3;
- agreed to revoke methods for iron and copper currently listed in CXS 234 in light of the agreed numeric performance criteria for these elements and inclusion of example methods (CRD03, Appendix II, Table 2);

## Endorsement of Sampling Plans

- **Methylmercury in Fish:**
  - Endorsed sampling plan / Aligns with goals of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF).
  - **Purpose:** Protect consumers by setting reliable standards for monitoring mercury in seafood, a significant health concern globally.
- **Implications for Trade and Health:**
  - Enables more reliable testing, benefiting exporters and national health programs.

### ***Decision Role:***

*“The lot is accepted if the test result is less than or equal to the Codex maximum level (ML); otherwise, the lot is rejected”*

### CCMAS Agreed to:

- **Endorse the numeric performance criteria for:**
  - benzoic acid in jams, jellies, and marmalades, pickled cucumbers, mango chutney;
  - coconut milk and coconut cream;
  - sorbates in jams, jellies, and marmalades and pickled cucumbers;
  - tin in processed fruits and vegetables and table olives
- **Retain the current methods in CXS 234 for calcium in preserved tomatoes, canned citrus fruits, certain canned vegetables, canned strawberries, pickled cucumbers and citrus marmalade.**

## Agenda Item 9: APPROACH FOR THE PLACEMENT OF NITROGEN CONVERSION FACTORS

- Forward the document titled “Nitrogen to protein conversion factors” for adoption as an Annex to CXS234-1999 by CAC47 (Appendix II, Part 3).
- Inform the relevant commodity committees about the "Nitrogen to Protein Conversion Factor“ document and remind them that it was their responsibility to identify and report the proposed nitrogen conversion factors to CCMAS to facilitate the endorsement process; and consider revoking Nx values in their commodity standards;
- Request that **CCNE** consider whether it was appropriate to set the **Nx** value of 5.71 for **Tehena**.

## • **Commodity-Specific Reviews**

- In-depth review of methods for cereals, pulses, legumes, and fish.
- Package for these categories completed and forwarded to Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC47) for adoption.

## • **New Work Areas**

- Reviews will continue for fruit juices and initiate new guidelines for cocoa and chocolate, expanding food categories covered by CXS 234.

- **Revised General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2004)**

- The committee has made progress on a comprehensive digital e-book to improve accessibility to sampling guidelines.
- **Sampling Plan Apps:** New digital tools to help members apply sampling guidelines effectively across different food products.

- **Objectives**

- Provide practical, easily accessible tools for Codex standards users, enhancing compliance and implementation.



# Advances in Allergen Labeling and Use of Type IV Methods

- **Precautionary Allergen Labeling**
  - Progressing on standard methods to support clear allergen labeling, aiming for a safer global food supply.
  - Significant developments expected by CCMAS 44.
- **Type IV Methods**
  - Committee endorsed Type IV methods under specific conditions to complement Type I methods, ensuring flexible and practical solutions for food testing in resource-limited settings.

# New Work

- **Establish New EWG**

1. EWG chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Germany to develop a discussion paper on the review of all sampling plan in CXS234, to determine what information should be included in CXS234 and continue developing the information document taking into account the discussion at CCMAS43.
2. EWG chaired by Serbia and co-chaired by the United States of America to review the cocoa products and chocolate workable package.
3. EWG chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by Chile, to develop definitions for descriptions of analytical methods, and prepare a revised CXS234-1999 presenting the proposed harmonized principles and provision names.

# Continued Work

- **Re-established EWGs**

1. Re-establish EWG chaired by the Germany to review the workable package for fruit juices for consideration by CCMAS44.
2. Re-establish EWG chaired by the USA, and co-chaired by Australia, with the following terms of reference:
  - to establish numeric performance criteria for the determination of nitrate and nitrite ions in the food matrices listed in CX/FA 21/52/7 Appendix 5, Annex 2 including adopted MLs in the GSFA and the lowest proposed residual levels.
  - to review the methods in CX/FA 21/52/7 Appendix 5, Annex 1 and Annex 2.
3. Re-establish the EWG, chaired by the USA, and co-chaired by UK, to request Members to submit validation data of the methods listed in Appendix I of CX/MAS24/43/9 and to evaluate them (Methods of Analysis for Precautionary Labeling).

