

The 30th meeting of the Arab Codex Contact Points

In preparation for the session 47th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC47) to be held in person in Geneva, Switzerland, from 25 to 30 November 2024, and based on the email received on 28/10/2024 from Professor Samuel Godefroy, in which he proposes holding coordination meetings for the Arab Codex contact points, as follows:

- Meeting 29 : Thursday, October 31, 2024
- Meeting 30 : Wednesday, November 13, 2024
- Meeting 31 : Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Based on the approval of His Excellency the Director-General of AIDS MO to hold the coordination meetings of the Arab Codex Contact Points according to the dates indicated above.

The 30th meeting was held on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, With the participation of representatives of the following Arab countries:

1. Jordan
2. UAE
3. Bahrain
4. Sudan
5. Syria
6. Oman
7. Qatar
8. Yemen

As well as AIDS MO and GFORSS representatives.

The meeting was opened by the representative of AIDS MO and the coordinator of the Arab Codex Initiative, with a speech in which he welcomed the participants and thanked them for accepting the invitation to participate, indicating that this meeting and the next meeting will be devoted to preparing for the 47th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC47), scheduled to be held in person in Geneva from 25 to 30 November 2024, and thanked the representatives of UAE, Syria, Bahrain, Oman and the experts of the Arab Codex Initiative for their efforts in preparing the presentations of this meeting, which include the outcomes of the meetings of the Codex committees held during this year, as follows:

- Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)
- Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)
- Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF)
- Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

The meeting agenda was reviewed and its items approved as follows:

Agenda item	Subject
Item 1	Opening Remarks and adoption of Agenda: Arab Codex Initiative Coordinator
Item 2	Preparation of the 47th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) • Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) • Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) • Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)
Item 3	Discussion and clarification of the voting procedures for the 47th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, concerning the election of the Vice Chair position.

Item 2: Preparation of the 47th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

- **Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR):**

The presentation of this committee was given by Eng. Sonia Baladi, representative of the UAE, who reviewed the following:

The background of the 55th Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR): The 55th session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) took place in Chengdu, China, from June 3 to 8, 2024, with the participation of 46 Member States, one Member Organization, and 11 Observer Organizations.

The Arab countries participating in the session are Jordan, UAE, Arabia, Syria, Oman, Qatar, and Morocco.

Highlights and Decisions from CCPR55:

Work Submitted for Adoption at Step 5/8	MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies)
Work Submitted for Final Adoption	Consequential amendments to the CXLs for peppers groups/subgroups: MRLs for okra
Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption	Consequential amendment to the Classification of food and feed (CXA 4-1989) – Additional commodities for Class D – Processed Foods of Plant Origin
Standards and related texts submitted for adoption at Step 5	Guidelines for monitoring the stability and purity of reference materials and related stock solutions of pesticides during prolonged storage
Proposed Priority List of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR	Priority list of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR: *New Evaluation: 6 compounds (2 Reserve) *New Uses and Other Evaluations: 20 pesticides (3 reserve) *Periodic review: 10 compounds
Work proposed for discontinuation for information	MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies) withdrawn from the step procedure

Other issue for Information	Expansion of the scope of the Guidelines for monitoring the stability and purity of reference materials and related stock solutions of pesticides during prolonged storage to cover mixtures of pesticides
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- **Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH):**

The presentation of this committee was made by Dr. Balsam Jreikous, representative of Syria, who reviewed the following:

The background of 54th Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH): The Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) held its 54th session in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11 to 15 March 2024, which was attended by 56 Member Countries, one Member Organization and 11 Observer Organizations.

The Arab countries that participated to the physical meeting: Egypt; Mauritania, Morocco; Oman and Saudi Arabia.

Highlights and Decisions from CCFH54:

Agenda item	Decision
Item 5: Guidelines for the control of shiga toxin-producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC) in raw beef, fresh leafy vegetables, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, and sprouts	Forward the proposed draft on Fresh Leafy Vegetables and the proposed draft on Sprouts for adoption at Step 5/8,
Item 6: Guidelines for the safe use and reuse of water in food production and processing (on fishery products and on dairy products)	Adoption at step 5/8 (Milk and Milk Products) Return to step 2/3 (Fish and Fishery Products)
Item 7: Proposed draft revision on the guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to the control of pathogenic vibrio species in seafood	Adoption at Step 5
Item 8: Proposed draft guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food	Adoption at Step 5/8
Item 9: Alignment of codex texts developed by CCFH with the revised general principles of food hygiene	All alignment work would need review during CCFH55 and approval before CAC adoption
Item 10: Revision of the guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to control of viruses in food Item 11: Discussion paper on the revision of guidelines for the control of <i>Campylobacter</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> in chicken meat Item 12: Discussion paper on the revision of guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to the control of <i>Listeria Monocytogenes</i> in foods	New work

- **Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF):**

The presentation of this committee was made by Eng. Mohammed Al Kindi, representative of Oman, who reviewed the following:

The background of 27th Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF): The 27th meeting of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods took place from 21 to 25 October 2024 in Omaha, Nebraska, United States of America.

The Arab countries that participated to the physical meeting: Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Egypt and Morocco.

Highlights and Decisions from CCRVDF27:

The Committee agreed to forward to CAC47 for final adoption MRLs for 5 drugs	(At Step 5/8): MRLs for clopidol (chicken kidney, liver, muscle, and skin/fat) MRL for imidacloprid - finfish fillet (muscle with skin in natural proportions) and/or muscle MRLs for 3 drugs developed by extrapolation methodology
The Committee agreed to forward to CAC47 for adoption at step 5	MRLs for Fumagillin dicyclohexylamine (DCH) – fish fillet and honey.
New work (step 2/3)	Submit new work proposal to develop Guideline for actions to be taken by competent authorities following the detection of a residue of a veterinary drug in a non-target animal commodity associated with unavoidable and unintentional carryover in feed. A priority list was also agreed upon for approval as new work by CAC47.

- **Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)**

The presentation of this committee was made by Eng. Faisal Al-Sari, representative of Bahrain, who reviewed the following:

The background of 43rd of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS): The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) held its 43rd 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).

Highlights and Decisions from CCMAS:

Agenda Item 3.1: Endorsement of methods of analysis: CCSCCH And CCFO	Endorsement of Methods of Analysis for Key Foods "CCFSCH7" Spices & Culinary Herbs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring endorsed methods align with Codex standards and requirements in international trade.
Agenda item3.11: Approval of the sampling plan: Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF17)	Endorsement of Sampling Plans
Agenda Item 3.2: Performance criteria for methods for certain processed fruits and vegetables	CCMAS Agreed to: Endorse the numeric performance criteria for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • benzoic acid in jams, jellies, and marmalades, pickled cucumbers, mango chutney.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● coconut milk and coconut cream. ● sorbates in jams, jellies, and marmalades and pickled cucumbers. ● tin in processed fruits and vegetables and table olives
Agenda Item 9: Approach for the placement of Nitrogen conversion factors	<p>Forward the document titled "Nitrogen to protein conversion factors "for adoption as an Annex to CXS234-1999 by CAC47 (Appendix II, Part 3).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Request that CCNE consider whether it was appropriate to set the Nx value of 5.71 for Tehena.</p>

Item 3: Discussion and clarification of the voting procedures for the 47th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, concerning the election of the Vice Chair position:

Professor Samuel Godefroy introduced this item, explaining the rules for the voting procedures for the (47) session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission relating to the positions of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as follows:

Election of chairperson – CAC / Rule XII.11 of the general rules of FAO:

- The candidate obtains a majority of votes casts
- Repeated ballots until a majority found
- When there are more than 2 candidates-Candidate with the lowest number of votes is eliminated

Election of 3 Vice chairpersons of CAC under Rule XII.12 of the general rules of FAO – Except for the Quorum:

- 3 positions vacant; 3 names in a ballot (3 different names) - Ballots not compliant are eliminated/defective
- A candidate is elected when a majority is obtained for him/her
- Ballots are repeated for candidates who did not receive a majority (50+1) – until the majority reached for all elective positions (i.e. 3 positions filled)
- If in any ballot, no candidate receives the required majority – The candidate with the lowest number of votes is eliminated

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).
2. Thanking the representative of: UAE, Syria, Bahrain, Oman and the experts of the Arab Codex Initiative for their efforts in preparing and delivering the presentations at the meeting.