

الندوة العربية الرابعة للدستور الغذائي

THE FOURTH ARAB CODEX COLLOQUIUM



Key Outcomes of the 55th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA55)



April 19, 2025



Seoul, Republic of Korea | 24–28 March 2025

The Fifty-Fifth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA55) was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 24 to 28 March 2025, at the kind invitation of the Governments of the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China.

It was attended by:

- 46 Member Countries
- 01 Member Organization
- 24 Observer Organizations
- Representatives from FAO and WHO

Participants from **the Arab region** who attended the session in person included:
Morocco and Saudi Arabia.



55th

SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON **FOOD ADDITIVES**

Seoul, Republic of Korea
24-28 March, 2025

Information for delegates



Agenda Item	Key Discussions	Decisions
<p>3(a) : Matters of interest from FAO/WHO and JECFA99</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ JECFA presented findings on food additives including Nisin (INS 234), Natamycin (INS 235), and Polyglycerol esters of fatty acids (INS 475). ▪ Issues raised about exceeding ADI for INS 475 and data gaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ INS 475 added to JECFA Priority List; ▪ INS number to be assigned to Nisin A.
<p>3(b) : Draft Specifications for Identity and Purity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revised and new specifications developed from JECFA99 evaluations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 additives, 10 flavouring agents, and 3 enzymes used as processing aids. ▪ Concerns about potential contaminants (e.g. 3-MCPD and glycidyl esters (GEs)) in INS 475. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forwarded full specifications to CAC48 for adoption at Step 5/8. ▪ Updates to Codex Specifications List (CXA 6)
<p>4(a) : Endorsement/Revision of Maximum Levels in Codex Standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Endorsement of additive provisions in two standards: Castilla lulo and curry leaves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Endorsed; exclusion note for curry leaves included in GSFA
<p>4(b) : Alignment of Commodity Standards and GSFA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alignment of additive provisions across 3 CCASIA, 3 CCNE, 8 CCSCH, and 1 CCFO standards. Clarification of food category 12.2.1 (“Herbs and Spices (ONLY SPICES)”). Discussion of scope of Table 3 additives in herbs vs. spices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provisions revised and forwarded for adoption. Notes (e.g., 532, 534) clarified. EWG established to continue aligning additional regional and commodity standards.

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<p>5 : General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 552 provisions reviewed by PWG-GSFA. ▪ Discussions included proposed revisions, technological justifications, and use levels for colorants like erythrosine (INS 127), indigotine (INS 132), and paprika extract (INS 160c(ii)). ▪ Divergence between GSFA and commodity standards discussed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 22 recommendations adopted: new provisions added; some revoked or discontinued; others recirculated for comment. New proposals placed at Step 2. Multiple GSFA entries revised.
<p>6 : Revision of Class Names and INS (CXG 36-1989)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussions around clarity and consistency in the naming and numbering of food additives. Proposal to assign unique INS number to Nisin A (distinct from Nisin INS 234) and reassign INS for Carbomer, which had a conflict. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft revised INS list approved and forwarded to CAC48.
<p>7 : Priority List of Substances for JECFA Evaluation</p>	<p>Substances proposed in response to Circular Letter 2024/59-FA.</p> <p>Notable addition: INS 475 for specific contaminant assessment (3-MCPD, glycidyl esters (GEs)).</p> <p>Need for improved data quality and completeness emphasized.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Priority list updated ▪ Members and observers encouraged to submit comprehensive datasets to facilitate timely JECFA reviews.

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<p>8: Standard for Baker’s Yeast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Draft standard still lacked clarity on additive provisions and linkage to GSFA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Returned to Step 2. ▪EWG (led by China, France, Türkiye) tasked with redrafting and integrating GSFA provisions.
<p>9: Divergence Between GSFA and Other Codex Texts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Concern about inconsistencies between GSFA and commodity standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Two workflow models proposed to ensure synchronization between GSFA updates and Codex standard development
<p>10 : Other Business and Future Work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Cell-based foods: New proposal (Singapore & China) to develop safety assessment guidelines for cell culture media components. ▪Future work discussion paper submitted by host Secretariat. ▪GSFA IT modernization: Testing phase planned; full rollout expected end 2025/early 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Forward proposals for new work to CAC48; continue internal capacity building on digital tools and harmonization mechanisms.

- ▶ The 55th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives highlighted both the complexity and the opportunity in shaping global standards for food additives.
- ▶ For Arab Region, this session offered important takeaways:
 - ☞ A renewed call for active participation in JECFA data submissions, particularly to influence priority-setting and risk evaluations;
 - ☞ The importance of alignment with the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) to ensure clarity and consistency across regional commodity standards;
 - ☞ The need to build regulatory readiness for emerging areas such as additives in alternative protein sources and cell-based food production;
 - ▶ The value of regional coordination, not just in attending meetings, but in shaping the technical dialogue and contributing data that reflects our unique consumption patterns.
 - ▶ the Arab region has an opportunity to strengthen its Codex voice by investing in scientific capacity, structured data generation, and regional consensus-building.



Let us transform our participation from presence to influence...

