

# الندوة العربية الرابعة للدستور الغذائي

## THE FOURTH ARAB CODEX COLLOQUIUM



### Report from the Arab Codex Workshop: Food Fraud Prevention and Management Tools from Theory to Application

*April 21, 2025*

# الندوة العربية الرابعة للدستور الغذائي

19-20 April 2025

الدولة	لجنة الدستور الغذائي المعنية بنظافة الأغذية (CCFH)
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# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



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**Agenda Item 5**

**CX/FICS 24/27/5  
August 2024**

## **JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

### **CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS**

#### **Twenty-Seventh Session**

Cairns, Australia

**16 – 20 September 2024**

#### **DRAFT GUIDELINES ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF FOOD FRAUD**

**(Step 3/4)**

(Report prepared by the Electronic Working Group<sup>1</sup> chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by China, European Union, Islamic Republic of Iran, and United Kingdom)

Codex Members and Observers wishing to submit comments, at Step 3/4, on this draft (Appendix I) should do so as instructed in CL 2024/71/OCS available on the Codex webpage/Circular Letters 2024: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>

## **INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**

1. At the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS24) (October 2018), the European Union, as Co-Chair of the EWG on Food Integrity and Food Authenticity, introduced a discussion paper, which contained definitions of food integrity, food authenticity, food fraud and Economically Motivated Adulteration (EMA); provided an analysis of how different CCFICS texts took into account the issues around food integrity and authenticity; noted a number of areas where further work may be justified; and presented recommendations for the Committee's consideration based on inputs from the EWG.

2. CCFICS24 agreed on the important cross-cutting nature of issues relating to food integrity and food authenticity and held a wide-ranging discussion in which many delegations engaged. There was recognition that CCFICS may have a role to play in this area.

## Conclusion

61. Considering that CCFICS27 had made significant progress in building consensus on sections 1, 2, 4, and 5 and resolved the substantial issues, CCFICS27 agreed to:
  - i. forward the draft guidelines on the prevention and control of food fraud to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5 (Appendix II);
  - ii. establish an EWG, open to all Members and Observers, chaired by the United States of America, and co-chaired by China, EU, Iran, Panama, and UK, working in English and Spanish, with the following terms of reference:
    - a. To consider comments received at Step 6, and all outstanding issues, including text in square brackets and comments made at CCFICS27 on sections 3, 6, 7 and 8.
    - b. To consider how feed for food producing animals was reflected and referenced throughout the guideline, taking into account other relevant Codex guidance.
    - c. To undertake multiple rounds of comments as necessary.
    - d. To submit the report of the EWG at least three months before CCFICS28; and
  - iii. to keep open the possibility to hold virtual intersessional meetings, to address any outstanding issues, and if needed, a physical working group immediately prior to CCFICS28.

# INTRODUCTION TO OUR SCOPE

Food Fraud is being handled by CCFICS – The text developed by CCFICS would be considered as a leading text, offering general guidance on the “do”s and “don’t”s that stakeholders have to follow to manage fraud – It remains however general and calls for “prevention, mitigation” of food fraud in several sections of the text – **without offering tools for such prevention or mitigation to be exercised.**

In other words, more detailed guidance ought to be made available for industry (primarily) and regulators (who are compelling industry to adopt a preventive approach for food fraud management, as is the case for food safety).

When the landscape of such guidance and tools is scanned, it remains confusing – So many tools were developed and advocated by academics, by private standards (GFSI standards) or other organizations (check article: Food fraud vulnerability assessment: Towards a global consensus on procedures to manage and mitigate food fraud - <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tifs.2020.04.002>).





Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Trends in Food Science & Technology

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/tifs](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/tifs)



### Food fraud vulnerability assessment: Towards a global consensus on procedures to manage and mitigate food fraud



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#### ARTICLE INFO

##### Keywords:

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#### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Food fraud represents a risk to the food industry and food business operators are required to conduct a food fraud vulnerability assessment to be in compliance with GFSI requirements. There is currently no globally-recognized standardized process for food fraud mitigation and some food business operators have found meeting the requirements to be challenging.

**Scope and approach:** This work summarizes the main aspects of publicly-available food fraud vulnerability assessment (FFVA) tools and resources, describes the general FFVA process based on a consensus of the previous work, and highlights gaps in this process that should be addressed.

**Key findings and conclusions:** The main gaps identified were: appropriately grouping and prioritizing products/ingredients, evaluating the vulnerability of multi-component finished products, collecting and evaluating supporting data, evaluating potential public health and economic impacts, resource constraints among small/medium-sized companies and in developing countries, understanding and creating standards for analytical detection methods for fraud, and evaluating fraud vulnerability in food packaging.

This work can support discussions at a global level that may eventually lead to a consensus process for a FFVA, for example, those conducted under the auspices of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

# INTRODUCTION TO OUR SCOPE

The idea is **to have Codex offer the reference guidance on food fraud prevention and mitigation (tools)** – inspired from what has been developed globally and from the experience gained. This would create one reference for food fraud management.

This text being more a guidance to industry related to GMP – and being similar to a HACCP (only for fraud - VACCP) would align with the CCFH mandate. This is fact similar to the work that CCFH led on allergen management – (applied to fraud here).

Considering the importance of food fraud for the (Near-East) region (suffering from many incidents in their imports) and to mitigate the development of heterogeneous regulatory approaches in what exporters or importers would be compelled to demonstrate to regulators (i.e., that they are taking food fraud seriously and are exercising preventive measures), we are proposing that such effort of alignment for this guideline to come through codex.

**A **discussion paper** projected would make this case, in following the reasoning above and would also shed some light on what the projected guidance to be developed by CCFH would look like.**

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**Guidelines on the implementation of Food Fraud Prevention, Control and Mitigation**

- 1. A discussion paper to be presented to CCFH (W3-DEC.2025)**
- 2. CCFH will review, discuss and decide**
- 3. CCFH recommendation to CAC for a New Work**
- 4. CCEXEC add the item on CAC Agenda**
- 5. CAC to decide on the initiation of a new work on the dev. of the guidelines**
- 6. Back to CCFH: EWG to be created for drafting, circulating for comments,...**

# WHAT IS NEXT

