



## FAO/WHO CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE NEAR EAST



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

### Report of the 35th Meeting of the Arab Codex Contact Points- Chaired by the Regional Coordinator for the Near East

In person/Virtually

Sunday April 20, 2025

In preparation for the meeting (44) of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS44), the 35th Meeting of the Arab Codex Contact Points was held in person on the margin of the Fourth Arab Codex Colloquium and virtually on Sunday April 20, 2025, with the participation of representatives of the following countries:

1. Jordan
2. United Arab Emirates
3. Bahrain
4. Tunisia
5. Algeria
6. Oman
7. Kuwait
8. Palestine
9. Qatar
10. Lebanon
11. Libya
12. Egypt
13. Morocco
14. Yemen
15. Iran

In addition to representatives of:

- AIDSMO and GFoRSS

The CCNE coordinator launched the meeting with introductory remarks in which he welcomed the participants and expressed his thanks to them for accepting the invitation to participate in this meeting., The Arab Codex Initiative coordinator, also welcomed the participants and explained that the meeting was dedicated to analyzing the items of 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of CCMAS scheduled to be held remotely during the period May 14-05, 2025.

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

Items
<b>Opening Remarks and adoption of Agenda:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCNE Coordinator</li> <li>• Arab Codex Initiative Coordinator</li> </ul>
<b>Review and analysis of agenda items of Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)</b>

## **Item 2: Analysis of the agenda items of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS):**

The analysis of agenda items of CCMAS44 was prepared and presented by representatives of the following countries: Tunisia and Libya, in cooperation with experts from the Arab Codex Initiative, as follows:

Presented by Dr. Hadi Al-Alam (Libya)	<b>Agenda Item 3: Endorsement of Methods of Analysis Provisions and Sampling Plans in Codex Standards</b>	CCMAS44 is invited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review the methods of analysis in Appendix I</li> <li>• consider the development of numeric performance criteria as identified in paragraph 5 (sodium chloride determination in fish);</li> <li>• note the editorial and consequential amendments made to CXS 234-1999 as detailed in Appendix II; and</li> <li>• acknowledge that while the methods of analysis and numeric performance criteria in Appendix III have been</li> </ul>
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		included in CXS 234-1999 in a format or location different from that adopted by CAC47, this does not have an impact on their technical content or interpretation.
	<b>Agenda Item 5: REVIEW OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS IN CXS 234</b> 5.1. FRUIT JUICES WORKABLE PACKAGE CX/MAS 25/44/6 5.2. COCOA PRODUCTS AND CHOCOLATE WORKABLE PACKAGE CX/MAS 25/44/7	The work of the review of methods in CXS 234-1999 is to remove inconsistencies, make editorial corrections, check if the methods are still fit for purpose and to look at the typing. CCMAS44 is invited to: consider: Appendix I and endorse the proposed changes to CXS 234-1999; and Items for further consideration in Appendix II and in paragraphs 13 – 14. consider Appendix I and endorse the proposed changes to CXS 234-1999; examine the suggestion to revise CXS 87-1981, part 6.8.2 'Quantitative Determination of Non-Cocoa Butter Vegetable Fats,' shown in Appendix II in accordance with CCMAS procedures.
	<b>Agenda Item 7: Numeric Performance Criteria for the Determination of Nitrate and Nitrite ions in Food Matrices CX/MAS 25/44/10</b>	CCMAS44 is invited to consider the findings highlighted in this report in response to CCFA's requests; and: consider and agree on the numeric performance criteria for nitrates and nitrites in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 and refer these to CCFA for their consideration.
Presented by Eng. Narjes Mahjebi (Tunisia)	<b>Agenda Item 4: Matters pending from CCMAS43</b> 4.1 - Methods of analysis for protein in quinoa (Comments in reply to CL 2024/91–MAS) - CX/MAS 25/44/4 4.2- Determination of moisture content in whey powder - CX/MAS 25/44/5	CCMAS44 is invited to: consider the proposal presented in paragraph 13 based on the information provided in Appendix I Table 1: Key points for each proposal; and decide whether the data provided is adequate to support the endorsement.
	<b>Agenda Item 6 6.1. INFORMATION DOCUMENT: GENERAL GUIDELINES ON SAMPLING (CXG 50– 2004) – E-BOOK WITH SAMPLING PLANS APPLICATIONS CX/MAS 25/44/8</b> <b>6.2. REVIEW OF SAMPLING PLANS IN CXS 234 CX/MAS 25/44/9</b>	CCMAS44 is invited to: -consider the information document and agree to its publication on the CCMAS webpage; - note that as other applications are developed, they will be forwarded for CCMAS' consideration for inclusion to the list of Apps in the information document; and -note that other supporting resources e.g. webinars will be made available on the CCMAS webpage.

		<p>-recommend that the discussion paper on the inclusion of sampling plan information in CXS 234-1999 continues to be developed for consideration at CCMAS45 (2026), to expand on the options for further work as set out in paragraph 4 and Appendix I; and</p> <p>-consider the development of a discussion paper on sampling plans for bulk materials including mycotoxins and including Bayesian approaches as set out in Appendix II, to be considered at CCMAS45.</p>
	<p><b>Agenda Item 9: Harmonization of Names and Format for Principles Identified in CXS 234 CX/MAS 25/44/12</b></p>	<p>CCMAS is invited to:</p> <p>approve the criteria to name the principles described in the discussion paper (Appendix I);</p> <p>endorse the proposed draft version of the harmonized names and format for principles as well as provision</p> <p>names presented in the discussion paper (Annexes A and D of Appendix I);</p> <p>agree on the abbreviation for each principle identified, when necessary for space reasons and, acronyms and</p> <p>abbreviations of principle methods presented in the discussion paper (Annex B of Appendix I);</p> <p>recommend publishing on the Codex website for this committee (CCMAS) a list of acronyms for reference</p> <p>standards methods used by the committee to facilitate the understanding and access of information to</p> <p>interested parties (Annex C of Appendix I);</p> <p>and</p> <p>review the harmonized list of provisions suggested in Annex D, which would enable the initiation of work in</p> <p>ensuring proper harmonization in this regard to address the issue identified in para 9.</p>

The second agenda item featured a series of interventions, as participants from Member States and stakeholders exchanged their opinions on the work of this Codex Committee, with a particular focus on the need for further capacity building related to provisions on sampling plans. In response, it was proposed that GForSS, with support from the Arab Section of AOAC International, organize webinars targeted at addressing the specific needs of members. In addition, the representative of Algeria highlighted the need for further harmonization of provisions on analytical methods, a proposal that received broad support, with participants agreeing to assist in the preparation and presentation of a Conference Room Document (CRD) on the issue of analytical methods mentioned in the Standard for Wheat and Durum Wheat (CXS-199-1995). The discussion also drew attention to the challenges in interpreting analytical results, leading to a proposal to develop harmonized guidelines for interpretation of results within the region.

Lastly, the following 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)) and on GForSS Website:  
<https://gforss.org/networks/arabcodex/>
2. Thanking the representatives of the following countries: Tunisia, Libya, as well as the experts of the Arab Codex Initiative, for preparing and submitting analytical presentations on the agenda items of Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS).