

# 38<sup>th</sup> Joint Arab Codex Contact Points and CCNE Coordination Meeting

## SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

**(CCCF18)**

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*Country: Qatar*

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*Country: Oman*

*July 09, 2025*

# Introduction

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CCCF held its 18th Session, in Bangkok, Thailand, from 23 to 27 June 2025 in hybrid format, at the kind invitation of the Governments of the Kingdoms of Thailand and the Netherlands.

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First **CODEX ARAB WORKING GROUP (CAWG)** on Codex committee on food contaminants (CCCF) within the Arab initiative for CODEX.

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## THE GOAL / AGENDA

Covered a wide array of topics through 23 agenda items, with the primary objective of advancing discussions, reviewing ongoing work, and establishing future actions to improve global food safety standards.

Members and observers from international organizations participated in the session notably from Arab countries such as Morocco, Egypt, Oman and Qatar.

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CCCF addressed a variety of issues related to food contaminants, including:


- Development and revision of maximum levels (MLs) for specific contaminants such as **lead, aflatoxins, and cadmium**.
- Significant updates to existing Codes of Practice.
- New works on the prevention and reduction of contaminants like pyrrolizidine alkaloids and acrylamide.

# Key achievements: summary of the main outcomes

## Finalized Standards / Adoptions



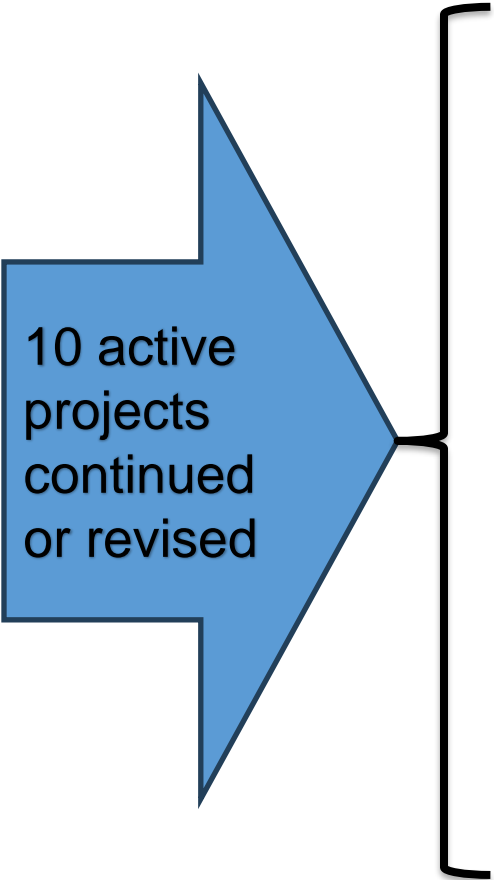
7 finalized decisions

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1. ML for lead in dried bark (2.5 mg/kg) – advanced to Step 8
  2. ML for lead in dried culinary herbs (2.0 mg/kg) – Step 5/8
  3. Sampling plan for aflatoxins & ochratoxins in spices – Step 8
  4. Revised Code of Practice (CoP) for aflatoxins in peanuts (CXC 55-2004) – Step 5/8
  5. Performance criteria for aflatoxin analysis (NPC) – sent to CCMAS45
  6. Guidance on data analysis for ML development – endorsed & published
  7. Updated JECFA Priority List – endorsed

**Discontinue work on the ML for RTE peanuts**

# Key achievements: summary of the main outcomes

## Ongoing Work



10 active projects continued or revised


1. CoP for cadmium contamination – returned to Step 2/3
2. Acrylamide CoP revision – India/Qatar/Saudi Arabia
3. Pyrrolizidine alkaloids CoP revision – Turkey
4. Aflatoxin B1 in feed – revised CoP under development
5. Guidance on ML data analysis – annexes under development
6. Review of sampling plans and NPC integration – in coordination with CCMAS45
7. Occurrence data on aflatoxins in cereals – Brazil/Thailand EWG
8. Follow-up on JECFA evaluations – EU & USA chaired WGs
9. Update of Codex standards for contaminants – expanded OHPL list and review of methylmercury in tuna – NZ/Canada EWG
10. Application of maximum levels to multi-ingredient products and analysis of occurrence data of lead in spice mixtures- to prepare a discussion paper exploring options for guidance/ EWG chaired by Japan and co-chaired by India, Panama and the USA

# Key achievements: summary of the main outcomes

## New Work Approved



4 new projects initiated

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1. CoP on tropane alkaloids – chaired by China, co-chaired by Saudi Arabia
  2. CoP on aflatoxin B1 in animal feed – Canada/Saudi Arabia
  3. CoP on ochratoxin A in dried fruits – Turkey/UK
  4. Guidance on recycled plastics in food packaging – USA, with Canada & Japan



## ARAB COUNTRIES' CONTRIBUTIONS AND PROGRESS WITHIN CCCF18



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## Key Contributions and Proposals by Arab Countries at CCCF18



**Arab countries have increasingly advanced their implication and visibility**

<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Co-chair of the Electronic Working Group (EWG) on acrylamide.</li><li>• Co-chair of the EWG on aflatoxin B1 in raw materials and feed for milk-producing animals.</li><li>• Co-chair of the EWG on the prevention and reduction of tropane alkaloids.</li></ul>
<b>Qatar</b>	Co-chair of the EWG on the revision of the Code of Practice for the reduction of acrylamide in foods.



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<b>Qatar supported Oman Egypt</b>	<b>by and</b>	<b>Expressed concerns regarding the postponement of BPA consideration to CCCF19, noting that delays in JECFA guidance could impede timely responses to emerging issues, potentially disrupting global food trade and leaving countries that do not have their own national risk assessment agencies without international scientific guidance.</b>
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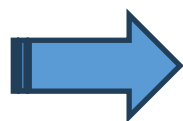
# ARAB COUNTRIES' CONTRIBUTIONS AND PROGRESS WITHIN CCCF18

## Key Contributions and Proposals by Arab Countries at CCCF18



**Arab countries have increasingly advanced their role and visibility**

<b>Egypt</b>	<b>Egypt offers to co-host the 19th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF19), scheduled for 19–23 October 2026, pending final confirmation.</b>
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**Valued opportunity for Arab countries to strengthen their presence in Codex work.**

*Would enhance visibility, promote Arab food safety priorities, support regional capacity building, and encourage wider participation offering a platform for greater Arab collaboration and influence in shaping international food standards.*

## Key considerations for Arab countries

### **Arab countries have strong reason to engage in the ongoing Codex working group**

Their growing engagement reflects a strong commitment to food safety and international standard-setting. Through active participation in working groups and project proposals, Arab countries have contributed meaningfully to the development and revision of key Codex texts.

### **Arab countries are encouraged to support Egypt's initiative and actively engage in preparations for CCCF19 to maximize regional impact:**

These efforts not only reinforce regional priorities but also demonstrate leadership and technical expertise in addressing food contaminants.

