

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

## PREPERATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

**14/07/2025 - 18/07/2025 | Rome, Italy**  
**(CCEXEC88)**

***Presenter Name: Dr. Hadi Elalem***

***Country: Libya***

***July 09, 2025***



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

**CODEX**  
**ALIMENTARIUS**  
INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS

 **14-18 July 2025**

FAO Headquarters, German room  
(C-building, 2nd floor)  
All time CEST (GMT +2)



Languages:  
Arabic, Chinese, English, French and  
Spanish

# Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

**Tentative programme**

**CCEXEC88**



## Agenda Item 2.1

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS  
COMMISSION EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION  
FAO HEADQUARTERS

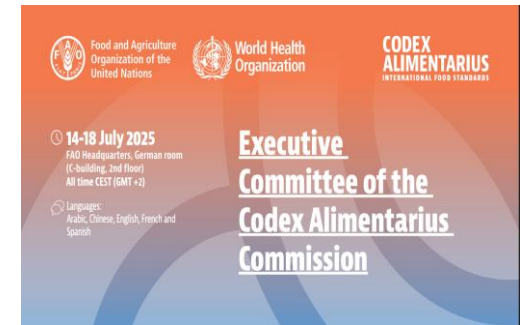
*CRITICAL REVIEW - PART I*

SESSION: 88TH CCEXEC  
JULY 2025, ROME

# Purpose and Process of Critical Review

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- **Ensure** new work and draft standards align with Codex strategic priorities.
- **Review** based on:
  - Mandate and strategic plan of Codex.
  - Availability of scientific advice.
  - Timeliness and procedural compliance.
- **Executive Committee** (CCEXEC) responsibilities:
  - Monitor progress of draft standards.
  - Recommend actions (extension, cancellation, reassignment)
  - Assess and advise on new work proposals.



# Regional Highlights – Africa (CCAFRICA25)

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA25)			
Committee	Uganda	Chairperson	Mr Hakim B. Mufumbiro
Host	CCAfrICA25	27-31 January 2025	
Session reported on	CCAfrICA26	2027 (TBC)	
Next session	REP25/AFRICA		
Report			

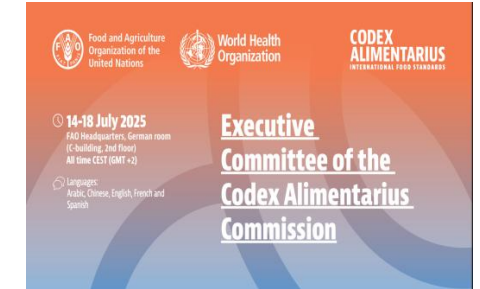
## ➤ New Work Proposals

### ✓ Approved to advance:

**Regional standard for braised or boiled, salted and unsalted, dried fish** → forwarded to CAC48.

### ✓ Deferred for improvement:

**Tiacry** (precooked cereal vegetable granules) → to be **revised and resubmitted** at CCAFRICA26.



**Observation:** A notable appetite in Africa for initiating new Codex work items, but the quality of submissions is still limited by weak application of Codex work prioritization criteria.

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Report	<a href="#">REP25/AFRICA</a>		

- **Partnerships and Harmonization** - Strong emphasis on enhancing collaboration between Codex and the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO).
- ✓ **Members highlighted the need for:**
  - Multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms
  - Data sharing across food safety institutions
  - Strengthening food control systems
- **Food Hygiene and Street Foods** - Members welcomed **CXG 103-2024** (hygiene in traditional markets).
- ✓ **Call to revise regional guidelines for street-vended foods (CXG 22R-1997) to:**
  - Ensure consistency with updated international texts
  - Identify gaps and opportunities for revision



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- **Critical Capacity Gap**
  - ✓ Many members **struggle to apply the Codex Guidelines on Work Prioritization (commodity criteria)** effectively.
  - ✓ **Recommendation:** *Practical training is urgently needed to strengthen proposal quality and regional participation in Codex standard development.*
- **Codex Strategic Plan Implementation**
  - ✓ Members supported ongoing implementation of the **2020–2025 Strategic Plan**, while preparing for the new plan.
  - ✓ A physical in-session **working group** identified **new potential activities** aligned with the upcoming Codex strategic plan.
- **Leadership Transition:** *to appoint Gambia as new Coordinator for Africa*





# Regional Highlights - CCNASWP17 (N. America & SW Pacific)

Committee	Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP17)		
Host	Fiji	Chairperson	Dr Andrew Tukana
Session reported on	CCNASWP17	3-7 February 2025	
Next session	CCNASWP18	2027 (TBC)	
Report	<a href="#">REP25/NASWP</a>		

## Approved New Work Proposals

### ➤ Galip Nut (Papua New Guinea-led)

- ✓ **Rationale:** Important for Pacific Island Countries (PICs) in terms of nutrition, food security, and trade.
- ✓ **Risks Addressed:** Associated with aflatoxins and allergens, but existing Codex texts (e.g. CXC 59-2005, CXS 1-1985) are sufficient to manage these.
- ✓ **Procedural Compliance:** Proposal fully met Codex criteria; no need for additional scientific advice.
- ✓ **Next Steps:** EWG established (PNG Chair, NZ & Vanuatu Co-chairs); to prepare draft standard for Step 3 consideration at CCNASWP18.





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Report	<a href="#">REP25/NASWP</a>		

## Approved New Work Proposals

### ➤ Breadfruit Flour (Samoa-led)

- ✓ **Rationale:** Breadfruit is a climate-resilient staple. Converting it into flour addresses perishability, reduces waste, and supports trade.
- ✓ **Market Potential:** Recognized as a gluten-free product with high commercial interest.
- ✓ **Procedural Compliance:** Meets Codex new work and commodity standard criteria; no new scientific advice needed.
- ✓ **Next Steps:** EWG led by Samoa (co-chaired by Australia & Fiji) to continue data collection and draft preparation.



# Highlights – CCFFV23 (Fresh Fruits & Vegetables)



Committee	Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)		
Host	Mexico	Chairperson	Ms Andrea Genoveva Solano Rendón
Session reported on	CCFFV23	25 February – 1 March 2025	
Next session	CCFFV24	TBC	
Report	REP23/FFV		

## 3. Status of work items

Topic	Job number	Target year	Recommendation of CCFFV23
<b>For decision by the Commission</b>			
1. Standard for fresh dates	N01-2016	CCFFV22	Adoption at Step 8
2. Standard for fresh curry leaves	N06-2022	CCFFV25	Adoption at Step 5/8
3. New work on developing a standard for fresh turmeric			Approval
4. New work on developing a standard for fresh broccoli			Approval
<b>For information</b>			
5. Work on the review of existing FFV standards			
6. Developing an actionable mentorship mechanism, including twinning programmes			
7. Future of CCFFV			

# CCFFV23 – Key Findings & Strategic Insights

## Standards Progressed to CAC

### ➤ Fresh Dates (Step 8)

- Finalized after resolving debate on moisture content.
- 1% decay tolerance retained; EU reservation noted.

### ➤ Fresh Curry Leaves (Step 5/8)

- Awaiting endorsement of food additives and labelling by CCFA and CCFL.
- In line with Codex procedural requirements.

# CCFFV23 – Key Findings & Strategic Insights

## New Work Proposals Approved

### ➤ **Fresh Turmeric (Fiji)**

- Enhances food security and trade.
- No scientific advice required.



### • **Fresh Broccoli (Mexico)**

- Revised to meet Codex format and strategy criteria.
- Differentiation from frozen broccoli emphasized.

# CCFFV23 – Key Findings & Strategic Insights

## ➤ Review of Existing Standards

- Alignment of existing FFV standards to FFV layout only.  
Substantive changes deferred to future work.
- EWG re-established for layout harmonization.

## ➤ Mentorship & Capacity Building

- Need for actionable mentorship mechanism recognized.  
Includes twinning programs to support leadership by less active Members.
- Request to CAC for Codex to lead facilitation efforts.

## Strategic Reflections & Future of CCFFV

- Consideration of virtual or correspondence-based future sessions.
- Fresh dates case shows Codex's ability to build consensus.
- Emphasis on clear product definitions (e.g., fresh vs frozen broccoli).
- Codex must balance inclusivity, clarity, and technical rigor.

[illegible]