

REPORT OF DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS STEMMING FROM THE 18TH SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS (CCCF18)

Prepared to Support the Participation of Codex Communities of Practice Supported by GFORSS

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Disclaimer and Disclosure of Interest

It is important to note that the proposed analysis and associated conclusions and recommendations stem from the work of independent food regulatory experts. The analysis and associated recommendations or positions are presented as mere suggestions and should not be considered as a direction or final recommendation to the competent authority empowered to develop and endorse Codex positions.

Disclosure of Interest: Experts involved in the development of this analysis contribute to various food safety and nutrition regulatory capacity building initiatives funded by other Governments, aid agencies, industry and international organizations.

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BACKGROUND

The **18th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF18)** was held 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. The session 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 various international organizations participated in the session notably from Arab countries such as Morocco, Oman and Qatar.

WORK PROGRESS AND DECISIONS MADE DURING THE SESSION

CCCF addressed a variety of issues related to food contaminants, including the development and revision of maximum levels (MLs) for specific contaminants such as lead, aflatoxins, and cadmium. The committee also considered significant

updates to existing Codes of Practice and introduced new works on the prevention and reduction of contaminants like pyrrolizidine alkaloids and acrylamide.

Among the key decisions, the committee advanced several proposals to Step 7 and Step 8 for final adoption, particularly focusing on lead levels in food, as well as sampling plans for aflatoxins and ochratoxins. At the same time, a number of new works were initiated, to address the evolving concerns in food safety, including the development of new Codes of Practice for tropane alkaloids and aflatoxin B1 in animal feed.

CCCF18 also reviewed ongoing work related to JECFA evaluations, data collection, and the implementation of mitigation measures for contaminants in various food products ensuring the protection of consumer health globally.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (quantified summary of the main outcomes of CCCF18)

Finalized Standards / Adoptions

Total: 7 finalized decisions

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

Ongoing Work

Total: 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

New Work Approved and other initiated investigation of interest

Total: 5 new projects initiated

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
5. Proposal to include **marine biotoxins MLs** in CXS 193-1995 – EWG established

Other Deliverables

Key

- 23 agenda items covered
- 5 EWGs re-established or newly formed
- 1 major guidance document published (data analysis for MLs)
- 1 international event proposed – Egypt offered to host **CCCF19** (Oct 2026).

ARAB COUNTRIES' CONTRIBUTIONS AND PROGRESS WITHIN CCCF

During the session, **Arab countries have increasingly advanced their role and visibility**. 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. These efforts not only reinforce regional priorities but also demonstrate leadership and technical expertise in addressing food contaminants.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS AND PROPOSALS BY ARAB COUNTRIES AT CCCF18

Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-chaired the Electronic Working Group (EWG) on acrylamide. Co-chaired the EWG on aflatoxin B1 in raw materials and feed for milk-producing animals. Co-chaired the EWG on the prevention and reduction of tropane alkaloids.
Qatar	Co-chaired the EWG on the revision of the Code of Practice for the reduction of acrylamide in foods .
Egypt	<p>Egypt offers to co-host the 19th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF19), tentatively scheduled for 19–23 October 2026, pending final confirmation.</p> <p><i>Egypt's proposal presents a valuable opportunity for Arab countries to strengthen their presence in Codex work. Hosting the session in the region 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.</i></p> <p>Arab countries are encouraged to support Egypt's initiative and actively engage in preparations for CCCF19 to maximize regional impact.</p>

CCCF18 OVERVIEW: KEY ADOPTIONS, ONGOING WORK AND FUTURE SCOPE

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the discussions and outcomes of the CCCF18 session, highlighting key adoptions, ongoing works, and the future scope and directions for global food safety standards in the coming sessions of CCCF.

FINAL ADOPTIONS

1. Maximum Levels for Lead in Certain Food Categories (Step 7)

Adopted MLs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead in dried bark: ML of 2.5 mg/kg for adoption <u>at Step 8</u>. Lead in dried culinary herbs: ML of 2.0 mg/kg for adoption <u>at Step 5/8</u>.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forward these MLs to CAC48 for final adoption. Work on the 2.5 mg/kg ML for dried culinary herbs at Step 7 will be discontinued and communicated to CAC48.

2. Sampling Plan for Total Aflatoxins and Ochratoxin A in Certain Spices (Step 7)

- Advance the sampling plan to **Step 8** for adoption by CAC49 after endorsement by CCMAS45.

3. Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts (CXC 55-2004) (Step 4)

Adoption	Revised Code of Practice to be forwarded to CAC48 for adoption <u>at Step 5/8</u> (with omission of Steps 6 and 7).
Action	Emphasizing the need for proper implementation to support data collection for further risk management.

4. Review of Codex Standards for Contaminants

- CCCF approved the addition of standards from Lists A and B to the Overall Highest Priority List (OHPL) for:

- Cadmium in cereal grains (ML),
- Ochratoxin A in coffee (CXC 69-2009),
- Aflatoxins in various cereals and cereal-based foods (MLs),
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in smoked and dried foods (CXC 68-2009).
- These standards will be reviewed and updated as part of the OHPL.

5. Inclusion of MLs for Marine Biotoxins in CXS 193-1995 (request from Canada)

- The proposed request to include MLs for marine biotoxins in CXS 193-1995 (from CXS 292-2008) will be considered for final adoption at CAC.

6. Priority List of Contaminants for Evaluation by JECFA

- Endorsement of the priority list of contaminants for evaluation by JECFA.
- The list will be used to inform the evaluation of contaminants in the future.

7. Guidance on Data Analysis for the Development of Maximum Levels and for Improved Data Collection

- **Final approval and publication of the text:**
 - To endorse the main text of the "Guidance on data analysis for the development of maximum levels and for improved data collection."
 - To publish it as an information document on the Codex website.

ONGOING WORK

1. Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in Foods (At Step 4)

- Ongoing redrafting of the Code of Practice (CoP) to reduce cadmium contamination in food.
 - The CoP has been returned to Steps 2/3 for redrafting and circulation for comments.
 - The EWG, chaired by the USA, will continue its work and develop annexes on seaweed, rice, and other additions.
 - The Codex Secretariat will issue a circular letter on mitigation measures for various commodities.
 - The CoP will integrate CXC 81-2022 once provisions for all foods are completed.

2. Review of the Code of Practice for Weed Control to Prevent and Reduce Pyrrolizidine Alkaloid Contamination (CXC 74-2014)

- Ongoing revision of the Code of Practice to prevent pyrrolizidine alkaloid (PA) contamination in food and feed.
 - An EWG, chaired by Turkey, will continue revising the CoP for consideration at CCCF19.
 - Topics to be addressed include additional foods affected by PAs (e.g., grains, teas, honey), beekeeping practices, and new weed control methods.

3. Review of the Code of Practice for the Reduction of Acrylamide in Foods (CXC 67-2009)

- Ongoing revision of the Code of Practice to reduce acrylamide levels in food.
 - An EWG, chaired by India and co-chaired by Qatar and Saudi Arabia, will continue developing a discussion paper and revisions to the CoP.
 - The Codex Secretariat will issue a circular letter to gather more information on mitigation measures.

4. Review of the Code of Practice for the Reduction of Aflatoxin B1 in Raw Materials and Supplemental Feeding Stuffs for Milk-Producing Animals (CXC 45-1997)

- Ongoing work to revise the Code of Practice for the reduction of aflatoxin B1 in raw materials used for milk-producing animals.
 - The EWG, chaired by Canada and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia, will develop the revised CoP.
 - The Codex Secretariat will issue a circular letter to gather data and risk management practices.

6. Guidance on Data Analysis for the Development of Maximum Levels and for Improved Data Collection

- Ongoing work on developing the guidance document for data analysis related to maximum levels (MLs) and data collection improvements.
 - The EWG, chaired by the EU, will continue working on the annexes and the discussion paper for CCCF19.

7. Review of Numeric Performance Criteria (NPC) for Methods of Analysis for Total Aflatoxins

- The numeric performance criteria for methods of analysis for total aflatoxins using the sum of components concept is under review.
 - The NPC will be forwarded to CCMA545 for endorsement and inclusion in CXS 234-1999.
 - The Codex Secretariat will amend the relevant sampling plans in CXS 193-1995 once the NPC is endorsed.

8. Follow-Up Work on JECFA Evaluations and FAO/WHO Expert Consultations

- Ongoing work on following up JECFA evaluations and FAO/WHO consultations on contaminants.
 - An EWG, chaired by the EU, will prepare a discussion paper on T-2, HT2, DAS, and ergot alkaloids for consideration at CCCF19.
 - The working group, chaired by the USA, will follow up on previous JECFA evaluations prior to CCCF19.

9. Analysis of Occurrence Data of Aflatoxins in Cereals

- Ongoing work to analyze occurrence data of aflatoxins in cereals and assess the need for revising maximum levels.
 - The JECFA Secretariat will prepare a paper for a call for data for consideration by CCCF19.
 - An EWG, chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by Thailand, will prepare a discussion paper for CCCF20.

10: Review of Codex Standards for Contaminants

Agreement on several steps to further refine and enhance Codex standards for contaminants:

Addition of New Standards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cadmium in cereal grains: <i>Maximum Levels (ML)</i>. 2. Ochratoxin A in coffee: <i>Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of ochratoxin A contamination (CXC 69-2009)</i>. 3. Aflatoxins in various cereals and cereal-based foods: <i>MLs for seven categories</i>. 4. Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) in smoked and dried foods: <i>Code of Practice for the reduction of contamination of food (CXC 68-2009)</i>.
Information Updates	Add prioritization criteria , rationale, and other relevant details to the entries in the Overall Highest Priority List (OHPL) .
Alignment	Monitor the re-evaluation of sampling plans within the OHPL for alignment with the General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2004) . This will be documented in a new annex to be circulated as part of the annual Circular Letter (CL).
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue a circular letter in advance of CCCF19 to ensure continued alignment and updates. • Re-convene the working group (WG) chaired by Canada before CCCF19 to discuss the ongoing work. • Review the ML for methylmercury in tuna and associated sampling plan through an electronic working group (EWG) chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Canada, pending the overall workload for CCCF19.

11: Application of maximum levels to multi-ingredient products and analysis of occurrence data of lead in spice mixtures

- CCCF agreed to establish an EWG, chaired by Japan and co-chaired by India, Panama and the USA, to prepare a discussion paper exploring options for guidance on the application of MLs to spice mixtures, using CRD27 as a starting point.
- The discussion paper will be submitted for consideration at CCCF19.

NEW WORK AND OTHER INITIATED INVESTIGATIONS**1. Development of a Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Tropane Alkaloids in Food and Feed**

- Start new work on developing a Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of tropane alkaloids in food and animal feed.
- An EWG, chaired by China and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia, will develop this Code of Practice.

2. Development of a Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A in Dried Fruits

- Start new work on developing a Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of ochratoxin A in dried fruits.
- An EWG, chaired by Turkey and co-chaired by the United Kingdom, will refine the discussion paper and project document.

3. Development of Guidelines on the Food Safety Aspects of Recycled Plastics in Food Packaging

- Prepare a discussion paper on the food safety aspects of using recycled plastics in food packaging.
- The United States, with assistance from Canada and Japan, will develop a paper for consideration at CCCF19.

4. Review of Maximum Levels for Marine Biotoxins

- Inclusion of maximum levels (MLs) for marine biotoxins in CXS 193-1995.
- An EWG will prepare a proposal for including these MLs in CXS 193-1995.

5. Review of Performance Criteria for Aflatoxin Analysis Methods (Sum of Components Concept)

- Review and recommend performance criteria for aflatoxin analysis methods using the sum of components concept.
- The working group will propose revisions for integrating new analysis methods into existing sampling plans.

6. Evaluation of analysis methods in CXS 193-1995 for which there are no methods in CXS 234-1999

- Identify missing methods in CXS 193-1995 where no methods are available in CXS 234-1999.
- The working group, led by Brazil, will prepare a discussion paper on this issue for CCCF19.

7. Updating contaminant surveillance data

- Request the JECFA Secretariat to prepare a paper on key points to include in a data call regarding food contaminants for CCCF19.
- An EWG, chaired by Brazil, will prepare a discussion paper for CCCF20 to review data on contaminants in cereals and cereal-based foods.

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF THE MAIN CCCF18'S DECISIONS

Item	Agenda Item	Conclusion
2	Matters Referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and its Subsidiary Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Encouraged more Members to take leadership roles in working groups and contribute to the monitoring framework for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031. ✓ Agreed to take into account CCMAS' ongoing work on bulk material sampling plans (including mycotoxins) when reviewing sampling plans. ✓ considered the addition of example methods at a later stage as work continues on updating NPC and review of sampling plans; and ✓ Approved editorial amendments to Annex X of CXS 193-1995 and forwarded for adoption by CAC48.
3	Matters of interest arising from FAO and who including JECFA	<p>The WHO and FAO JECFA Secretariats informed (CCCF) on recent activities, highlighting budget constraints affecting the scope of upcoming JECFA meetings. Key topics included Here's a shortened version of the FAO topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Evaluating chemical contaminants in water; ✓ Assessing chemical safety in food packaging; ✓ Foresight on food hazards and safety assessments; ✓ in therapeutic and functional foods; ✓ Guidance on mollusc sanitation and fish consumption risks; ✓ Review of food contaminants linked to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR); ✓ Developing methodologies for assessing contaminants in animal feed.
4	Matters of Interest from Other International Organizations	<p>The IAEA Representative provided an update on the information document regarding natural radionuclides in food, feed, and drinking water, which had been reviewed by IAEA/FAO/WHO and updated based on feedback from Codex members. CCCF agreed to publish a link to it on the Codex website once it becomes available for easy access and consultation by Codex members.</p>
5	Maximum Levels for Lead in Certain Food Categories (Step 7)	<p>Forward to CAC48:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ML of 2.5 mg/kg for dried bark for adoption at Step 8, noting China and India's reservations; b) ML of 2.0 mg/kg for lead in dried culinary herbs for adoption at Step 5/8, noting China and India's reservations. <p>Discontinue work on the 2.5 mg/kg ML for lead in dried culinary herbs (Step 7) and inform CAC48.</p> <p>CCCF agreed to retain an explanatory note on the extrapolation of MLs from fresh to dried culinary herbs.</p>

Item	Agenda Item	Conclusion
6	Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in Foods (At Step 4)	<p>CCCF agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Return the CoP to Steps 2/3 for redrafting and circulate for comments, aiming for advancement to Step 5 at CCCF19 based on available information; ii. Re-establish the EWG, chaired by the USA, to further develop the CoP, considering CCCF18 discussions and written comments, and develop Annexes on seaweed, rice, and other additions; iii. Request the Codex Secretariat to issue a circular letter on general and commodity-specific mitigation measures for grains, vegetables, pulses, legumes, fruits, and shellfish; iv. Integrate CXC 81-2022 into the CoP once general provisions for all foods in the main body are completed or nearly finished.
7	Sampling Plans for Total Aflatoxins and Ochratoxin A in Certain Spices (At Step 7)	advance the sampling plan to Step 8 for adoption by CAC49 after endorsement by CCMAS45
8	Maximum Level and Associated Sampling Plan for Total Aflatoxins in Ready-to-Eat Peanuts (At Step 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discontinue work on the ML for RTE peanuts and inform CAC48 accordingly; • To allow more time for the implementation of the revised Code of Practice and for data generation and submission to the GEMS/Food database, which could support future consideration of new work on establishing MLs for RTE peanuts. <p>Key concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the use of outdated data (2014-2016), with more recent submissions from countries like Canada, Brazil, and Kenya not being considered. ✓ The proposed ML was based on mean occurrence rather than the standard 95th percentile, and there was insufficient clarity on the criteria used for deriving the ML, such as rejection rates and exposure assessments. ✓ Previous JECFA assessments showed no health benefit in lowering the ML from 15 µg/kg to 10 µg/kg, but the lower limit would increase rejection rates. ✓ Members also questioned how non-detectable (ND) levels were handled in the data, and there were concerns about incomplete EWG work due to late paper submissions and inadequate consultation.
9	Revision of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts (CXC 55-2004) (At Step 4)	<p>CCCF agreed to forward the revised Code of Practice to CAC48 for adoption at Step 5/8 (with the omission of Steps 6 and 7).</p> <p>Noted the importance of implementing the CoP to support data collection to enable further risk management measures to be considered in the future.</p>

Item	Agenda Item	Conclusion
10	Review of the Code of Practice for Weed Control to Prevent and Reduce Pyrrolizidine Alkaloid Contamination in Food and Feed (CXC 74-2014)	<p>Start new work on the revision of the (CoP) for weed control to prevent and reduce pyrrolizidine alkaloid (PA) contamination in food and feed. Forwarded the project document to CAC48 for approval as new work.</p> <p>Re-established the EWG chaired by Turkey to prepare the draft revisions for CCCF19, addressing issues such as additional foods affected by PAs (e.g., grains, teas, spices, honey), beekeeping practices, new weed control methods, recommendations for small and medium enterprises, scientific findings on animal species sensitivity to PAs, regulation of herbal supplements, and risks associated with different plant species.</p>
11	Review of the Code of Practice for the Reduction of Acrylamide in Foods (CXC 67-2009)	<p>Re-establish the EWG, chaired by India, co-chaired by Qatar and Saudi Arabia, to further develop the discussion paper and project document, as well as propose draft revisions to the CoP for consideration by CCCF19.</p> <p>Requested the Codex Secretariat to issue a circular letter to gather more information on mitigation measures to reduce acrylamide contamination.</p>
12	Review of the Code of Practice for the Reduction of Aflatoxin B1 in Raw Materials and Supplemental Feeding Stuffs for Milk-Producing Animals (CXC 45-1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Initiate new work to revise the Code of Practice (CoP) for the reduction of Aflatoxin B1 in raw materials and supplemental feeding stuffs for milk-producing animals. ✓ Forward the revised project document to CAC48 for approval. ✓ Re-establish the EWG, chaired by Canada and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia, to develop the revised CoP. ✓ Request the Codex Secretariat to issue a circular letter to gather risk management practices and other relevant data/information to support the development of the CoP.
13	Development of a Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Tropane Alkaloids in Food and Feed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Start new work on a CoP for the prevention and reduction of tropane alkaloids in food and feed. ✓ Forward the project document to CAC48 for approval as new work. ✓ Re-establish the EWG, chaired by China and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia, to develop the CoP, incorporating written comments from CCCF18 for review by CCCF19. ✓ Request the Codex Secretariat to issue a circular letter requesting risk management practices and additional data/information to support the development of the CoP.
14	Guidance on Data Analysis for the Development of Maximum Levels and for Improved Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Endorse the main text of the "Guidance on data analysis for the development of maximum levels and for improved data collection" and publish it as an information document on the Codex website. ✓ Continue work on Annexes III, V, and VI, with further discussion on Annexes I, II, and IV for consideration by CCCF19. ✓ Re-establish the EWG, chaired by the EU and co-chaired by Japan, Netherlands, and the USA, to continue work on the guidance and prepare the discussion paper on the annexes.

Item	Agenda Item	Conclusion
15	Review of numeric performance criteria for methods of analysis for total aflatoxins utilizing the sum of components concept in relevant sampling plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Forward the NPC to CCMAS45 for endorsement and inclusion in CXS 234-1999; ✓ request the Codex Secretariat to amend the relevant sampling plans in CXS 193-1995 by replacing the current NPC and related texts with a reference to CXS 234 once CCMAS has endorsed the new NPC and to inform CAC accordingly; and ✓ request advice from CCMAS45
16	Application of maximum levels to multi-ingredient products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To establish an EWG, chaired by Japan and co-chaired by India, Panama and the USA, to prepare a discussion paper exploring options for guidance on the application of MLs to spice mixtures, using CRD27 (<i>Pragmatic guidance on how to evaluate compliance with MLs for lead in spice mixtures (Submitted by Japan)</i>), as a starting point.
17	Analysis of occurrence data of lead in spice mixtures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The discussion paper will be submitted for consideration at CCCF19.
18	Analysis of occurrence data of aflatoxins in cereals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ request JECFA Secretariat to prepare a paper on possible points to be included in a call for data for consideration by CCCF19; ✓ establish an EWG chaired by Brazil, co-chaired by Thailand, to prepare a discussion paper for CCCF20. <p>The paper would review all data in GEMS/Food to assess the need for revising MLs in GSCTFF, consider the derivation of new MLs for specific cereals, and evaluate the necessity to revise CXC 51-2003.</p>
19	Review of Codex Standards for Contaminants	<p>Add standards from Lists A and B to the Overall Highest Priority List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cadmium, cereal grains - ML; o Ochratoxin A in coffee (Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of ochratoxin a contamination in coffee (CXC 69-2009)); o Aflatoxins, various cereals and cereal-based foods MLs (x7); and o Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in smoked and dried foods (Code of practice for the reduction of contamination of food with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) from smoking and direct drying processes (CXC 68-2009)). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. add prioritization criteria, rationale and other information to indicated entries in OHPL; iii. track sampling plan re-evaluation in OHPL, for alignment with the with General guidelines on sampling (CXG 50-2004) when relevant, and in a new annex that will be circulated as part of the annual CL; iv. issue a circular letter in advance of CCCF19; v. re-convene prior to CCCF19 the WG chaired by Canada; vi. review the ML for methylmercury in tuna and the associated sampling plan through an EWG, chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Canada, pending consideration of the overall workload of CCCF19.

Item	Agenda Item	Conclusion
20	Follow-Up Work on JECFA Evaluations and FAO/WHO Expert Consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ establish an EWG, chaired by the European Union, working in English, to prepare a discussion paper on T-2, HT2, DAS and ergot alkaloids for consideration by CCCF19; ✓ reconvene the WG, chaired by USA to consider the follow-up work on the outcomes of JECFA evaluations prior to CCCF19.
21	Priority List of Contaminants for Evaluation by JECFA	endorse the priority list as amended (Appendix XI); and reconvene the VWG on the priority list of contaminants for evaluation by JECFA prior to CCCF19
22	Other Business	<p>Guidance related to food safety aspects of recycled plastics in food packaging (USA): Request USA, with assistance from Canada and Japan, to prepare and submit a discussion paper on developing guidance related to food safety aspects of recycled plastics in food packaging for consideration <u>by CCCF19.</u></p> <p>Development of a Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of ochratoxin A in dried fruits (Turkey, CRD08): establish an EWG, chaired by Turkey and co-chaired by the United Kingdom (UK), to refine the discussion paper and project document for the development of a code of practice for the prevention and reduction of ochratoxin A in dried fruits, for consideration <u>by CCCF19.</u></p> <p>Identification of methods for MLs in CXS 193-1995 for which there are no methods in CXS 234-1999 (Brazil): CCCF expressed appreciation to Brazil for its offer to prepare this discussion paper for consideration by CCCF19. CCCF noted the offer of Costa Rica to assist Brazil in the preparation of the discussion paper.</p>
	Issues Identified Under Agenda Item 19	<p>Inclusion of MLs for marine biotoxins in CXS 193-1995 (Canada): request the Codex Secretariat to include in CXS 193-1995, the MLs in Section 1.5 of CXS 292-2008 and to inform CAC accordingly.</p> <p>Harmonisation of the terminology “destined for further processing” and “intended for further processing” in CXS 193-1995: CCCF noted that the terms “destined for further processing” and “intended for further processing” were used interchangeably and agreed to discuss this topic again should there be further issues in the future.</p> <p>Evaluation of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) 2020-2023 - (Host Country Secretariat, CRD07):</p> <p>Delegates were invited to send further comments to the Host Secretariat within two weeks after CCCF18.</p>
23	Date and Place of Next Session	May be scheduled from 19 to 23 October 2026, subject to confirmation by the Host Country and the Codex Secretariats. CCCF noted the offer of <u>Egypt to co-host CCCF19.</u>