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MANAGING FOOD INNOVATION: NOVEL FOODS, INGREDIENTS & PROCESSES Food Regulatory Practices & The Role of Codex

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Novel Foods (NF), Ingredients & Processes

❑ Global drivers for food innovation

- Diversification of food sources of high nutritional quality
- Sustainability
- Demand for products aligned with consumers' values

❑ Wide spectrum

- Novel ingredients
- Novel production systems
- Novel processes and technologies
- Novelty in food or ingredient attributes



Challenges

❑ For regulators

- Assessing safety of foods with limited history of consumption
- Developing fit-for-purpose risk assessment approaches
- Harmonizing definitions and standards across jurisdictions

❑ For innovators

- Substantial investment
- Extended development timelines
- Absence of clear, predictable regulatory pathways can delay market entry, increase costs, create uncertainty for investment



Need for Global Alignment

- ❑ More predictable, transparent, science-based regulatory environments foster
 - Innovation and investment
 - Fair practices in the food trade
 - Consumer protection
- ❑ Frameworks must be able to integrate new scientific evidence, learn from international experiences
- ❑ Supported by international guidance through Codex



Examples of NF Regulatory Environments

	Canada	EU	USA
NF regulation	Yes	Yes	No
Risk perception	Product-oriented; Risk-based	Process-oriented; Hazard-based	Product-oriented; Risk-based
Data exclusivity	No	Yes	No (GRAS-public)
Pre-market safety assessment	Yes	Yes	No (except additives)
Use of NAMs	Some acceptance (case-by-case)	Limited and slow uptake	Minimal formal integration
Adaptability to disruptive technologies	Moderate	Cautious	Limited
Recognition of foreign assessments	Limited	Limited	No
Transparency / predictability	Moderate	High	Moderate



How to Address “New Food Sources and Production Systems”? Codex Discussions

❑ Discussed in CAC 44, 45, 46

❑ 2 perspectives (CL 2023/31):

- Dedicated mechanism, OR
- Existing Codex structures and procedures are sufficient

❑ CAC46 conclusion

- New work on NFSPS can be submitted to existing committees, CCEXEC, CAC
- Encouragement for concrete, science-based proposals, discussion papers
- More clarity on the work required would inform the need for a new dedicated mechanism



Opportunities for Collaboration & Regulatory Convergence

❑ Harmonization of principles

- Safety assessment and decision-making guided, where feasible, by common definitions, transparent procedures, science-based criteria
- Supported by agreed methodologies and standards

❑ Facilitation of mutual confidence

- Regulators recognize / rely on assessments conducted by other authorities, where appropriate



SUPPORTED BY CODEX PRINCIPLES AND GUIDANCE



Relevance to CCASIA

❑ Home to dynamic food innovation

❑ Drivers:

- Strong consumer demand, export ambitions, investments in technology

❑ Variable regulatory approaches to NF

- Market fragmentation risk?
- Many countries are importers and exporters of NF



OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE LEADERSHIP ROLE



Considerations for CCASIA

❑ Example: For NF of greatest demand / regulatory interest in the region

- Common guidelines for safety assessment
- Collaborative safety assessments
- Shared access to assessment outcomes

❑ Bridge to Codex for wider international applications

❑ Benefits

- Accelerate standardization of NF
- Participate actively in shaping standards
- Influence Codex agenda



