

FAO/WHO CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE NEAR EAST



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Report of the 39th Meeting of Arab Countries Codex Contact Points - Chaired by the CCNE

Coordinator

Virtually

Monday 1 September 2025

Within the framework of preparations for the 56th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR56), scheduled to be held in Santiago, Chile, from 8–13 September 2025, meeting of Arab Countries/ CCNE Codex Contact Points was held virtually on Monday, September 1, 2025. The meeting was chaired by the CCNE Coordinator and attended by representatives from the following countries.

1. Arab Republic of Egypt
2. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
3. Kingdom of Bahrain
4. Kingdom of Morocco
5. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
6. Lebanese Republic
7. People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
8. Republic of Sudan
9. Republic of Tunisia
10. Republic of Yemen
11. State of Libya
12. State of Palestine
13. State of Qatar
14. Sultanate of Oman
15. Syrian Arab Republic
16. United Arab Emirates
17. Islamic Republic of Iran

In addition, representatives of the following organizations participated:

- **The Arab Codex Initiative – Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining (AIDSMO)**
- **Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS)**

Dr. Intisar Algharibi, Regional Coordinator for the Near East, opened the meeting with a welcoming address, expressing her appreciation to the participants for accepting the invitation and attending this important gathering. In her opening remarks, she emphasized the critical importance of such meetings as a recurring platform for cooperation and an opportunity to strengthen collective efforts toward unifying perspectives within the region. She also highlighted that these meetings serve as a platform for constructive dialogue and the exchange of expertise and ideas, contributing to the discussion of agenda items and the achievement of practical outcomes that serve the region's interests. At the conclusion of her speech, she encouraged all participants to actively engage in the discussions, wishing the meeting to be full of fruitful and constructive exchanges.

Following this, Eng. Ahmed Eddouaicer, the Arab Codex Initiative Coordinator, welcomed all participants, expressing his pleasure at the convening of the 39th Coordinating Meeting. He explained that this meeting is held within the framework of preparations for the 56th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR56). He expressed hope that the agenda discussions would yield productive outcomes, thanking the experts from the Arab countries for their presentations to the committee and the experts from the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS) for their dedicated efforts. He also noted the diversity of countries participating in the working groups and presenting contributions, considering it a positive indicator reflecting the region's vitality and engagement, and wished everyone a productive meeting.

In his remarks, Professor Samuel Godefroy, President of the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) and Director/COO of GFoRSS, congratulated Dr. Intisar Algharibi on her appointment as Regional Coordinator and extended his congratulations to his colleagues from the Sultanate of Oman, wishing them continued success. He expressed his confidence in Dr. Algharibi's leadership in supporting Codex programs in the region, thanking all relevant organizations, particularly the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining (AIDSMO) and the Gulf Cooperation Council Standardization Organization. He commended the significant efforts of the Arab Codex Initiative experts and the scientific management of GFoRSS, wishing that the meeting would achieve its intended objectives for the benefit of the region.

Dr. Wiem Guissouma, Coordinator of the Arab Working Group for the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR56), also delivered a welcoming address to the Regional Coordinator, expressing her gratitude and appreciation to all attendees and participants. She reviewed the achievements of the expert team, including meetings held to discuss and analyze priority agenda items. She praised the tremendous

efforts and dedication of the team members in preparing for the session, offering special thanks to the countries whose experts volunteered to lead this work, and emphasized her appreciation for their active contributions and notable efforts in the team's work and preparation of presentations.

She further confirmed that the expert team is fully prepared to initiate a work plan for collecting data from the Arab region regarding priority and most commonly used pesticides, to be considered by the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) in their upcoming evaluations.

Following that, the agenda of the meeting was reviewed and its items approved as follows:

Fr	En	Ar	رقم البند
Remarques d'ouverture et adoption de l'ordre du jour : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinateur du CCNE Coordinateur de l'Initiative Arabe du Codex 	Opening Remarks and adoption of Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCNE Coordinator Arab Codex Initiative Coordinator 	كلمة افتتاحية واعتماد جدول الأعمال: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> المنسق الإقليمي لدول الشرق الأدنى منسق المبادرة العربية للدستور الغذائي 	البند الأول
Remarques de Dr. Wiem Guissouma : coordinatrice du groupe de travail arabe du Comité du Codex sur les résidus de pesticides (CCPR56)	Remarks by Dr. Wiem Guissouma: Coordinator of the Arab Working Group of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR56)	كلمة الدكتورة ونام قيسومة: منسقة مجموعة العمل العربية الخاصة بلجنة الدستور الغذائي المعنية بمخلفات المبيدات (CCPR56)	البند الثاني
Présentation des points de l'ordre du jour du Comité du Codex sur les résidus de pesticides (CCPR56) Présenté par : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eng. Sonia Baldi (Émirats arabes unis) Éléments (6.1, 7, 11) Eng. Issam Krid et Eng. Melika Hermassi (République tunisie) Éléments (6.2, 8.2) Mme Asma Alsheikh (État du Qatar) Éléments (6.3, 9) Dr. Mariam Barsoum Onsy et Dr. Ashraf Mohamed Sami (République arabe d'Égypte) Éléments (8.1, 10) 	Presentation of the Agenda Items of the codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR56) Presented by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eng. Sonia Baldi (United Arab Emirates) Items (6.1, 7, 11) Eng. Issam Krid and Eng. Melika Hermassi (Tunisian Republic) Items (6.2, 8.2) Mrs. Asma Alsheikh (State of Qatar) Items (6.3, 9) Dr. Mariam Barsoum Onsy and Dr. Ashraf Mohamed Sami (Arab Republic of Egypt) Items (8.1, 10) 	عرض بنود جدول أعمال لجنة الدستور الغذائي المعنية بمخلفات المبيدات (CCPR56) يُقدم من قبل: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> المهندسة سونيا بلدي (الإمارات العربية المتحدة) البند (6.1, 7, 11) المهندس عصام كريد والمهندسة مليكة هرماسي (الجمهورية التونسية) البند (6.2, 8.2) الاستاذة أسماء الشيخ (دولة قطر) البند (6.3, 9) الدكتورة مريم برسوم انسي والدكتور اشرف محمد سامي (جمهورية مصر العربية) البند (8.1, 10) 	البند الثالث

<p>Annonce de la prochaine réunion préparatoire de la douzième session du Comité de coordination régionale pour le Proche-Orient (CCNE12)</p>	<p>Announcement of the Upcoming Preparatory Meeting for the Twelfth Session of the Regional Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNE12)</p>	<p>الاعلان عن الاجتماع التحضيري المقبل الخاص بالدورة الثانية عشر للجنة التنسيق الإقليمية للشرق الأدنى (CCNE12)</p>	<p>البند الرابع</p>
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Item 3: Presentation of the Agenda Items of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR56)

Within the framework of preparations for the 56th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR56), the 39th Coordinating Meeting reviewed the main agenda items, with experts from Arab countries presenting specialized briefings on the issues, as follows:

- **Item 6.1:** Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in food and feed (Steps 7 and 4) – presented by **Eng. Sonia Baladi (United Arab Emirates)**, covering JMPR recommendations and consideration of pesticides for which sufficient data are not available.
- **Item 6.2:** Maximum Residue Limits in milk and milk fat – presented by **Eng. Issam Kerid (Republic of Tunisia)**, highlighting the need to include a regulatory note regarding fat-soluble pesticides.
- **Item 6.3:** Maximum Residue Limits in okra and certain crops – presented by **Ms. Asma Alsheikh (State of Qatar)**, emphasizing the importance of these crops in the Arab region and the need for supporting data to establish MRLs.
- **Item 7:** Guidelines for monitoring the stability and purity of reference materials and standard pesticide solutions during long-term storage – presented by **Eng. Sonia Baladi (United Arab Emirates)**, including discussions on analytical methods and reformation of the electronic working group to review the document.
- **Item 8.1:** Management of unsupported substances that do not pose public health risks and scheduled for periodic review – presented by **Dr. Ashraf Sami (Arab Republic of Egypt)**, recommending the removal of MRLs for several substances due to lack of supporting data.
- **Item 8.2:** National pesticide registrations – presented by **Eng. Malika Hermassi (Republic of Tunisia)**, highlighting the importance of a national registration database as a tool to identify supported and abandoned substances.
- **Item 9:** Preparation of tables and priority lists of pesticides for JMPR evaluation – presented by **Mrs. Asma Alsheikh (State of Qatar)**, reviewing nominations for new substances and uses, as well as the timeline for 2025 and beyond.

- **Item 10:** Strengthening operational procedures between CCPR and JMPR – presented by **Dr. Mariam Barsoum (Arab Republic of Egypt)**, with proposals for convening extraordinary JMPR meetings or developing targeted projects to improve the efficiency of the evaluation process.
- **Item 11:** Coordination between CCPR and the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVDF) – presented by **Eng. Sonia Baladi (United Arab Emirates)**, emphasizing the importance of coordination for dual-use substances (as pesticides and veterinary drugs) and efforts toward harmonizing standards.

Item 4: Announcement of the Upcoming Preparatory Meeting for the Twelfth Session of the Regional Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNE12)

Dr. Algharibi, Regional Coordinator for the Near East, announced the convening of the preparatory meeting for the 12th Session of the Near East Regional Coordinating Committee (CCNE12), scheduled for **Monday, 8 September 2025**, to be held virtually. This meeting is part of the preparations for the 12th Session of the Committee and aims to enhance coordination and ensure effective readiness for the participation of Arab and regional countries in its proceedings.

Lastly, the following recommendations were adopted:

All scientific documents and presentations shared during the meeting are to be uploaded to the interactive platform of the Arab Codex Initiative at www.Arabcodex.com as well as on the website of the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS) <https://gforss.org/networks/arabcodex/>

Acknowledgment is extended to the representatives of the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Tunisia, the State of Qatar, and the Arab Republic of Egypt, as well as to the experts of the Arab Codex Initiative, for their presentations on the agenda items of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR56).

