

FAO/WHO CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE
NEAR EAST



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

43rd Joint Coordination Meeting of Arab and CCNE Codex Contact Points

**PREPARATION FOR THE 48th SESSION OF THE
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

(CAC48)

Presented by the CCNE Secretariat

October 27, 2025

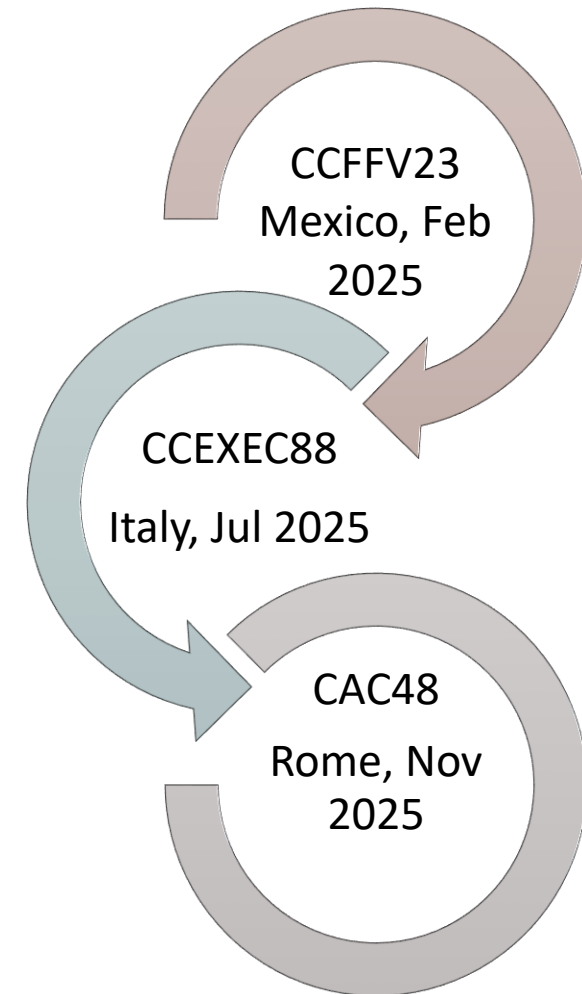
CCFFV23 Outcomes

Implications and Follow-Up
Actions in Preparation for CAC48



Setting the Stage for CAC48

Held	25 Feb – 1 Mar 2025 in Mexico City, chaired by Mexico.
Participation	27 Member Countries, observers from FAO and WHO.
Mandate	Advance standards for Fresh Dates and Fresh Curry Leaves and launch new work on Fresh Turmeric and Fresh Broccoli.
Outcome	Several texts now ready for CAC48 adoption (Nov 2025, Rome).
Arab Engagement	Strong regional presence and leadership on Fresh Dates; coordinated input through the Arab Codex Initiative (CCNE).
Next CCFFV24	To be confirmed



Key Standards & Decisions Advancing to CAC48

Fresh Dates (Step 8)

Adoption-Finalized standard

- 1% decay tolerance (Extra Class), EU reservation noted
- Clarified “fresh vs dried”
- Arab-led (Saudi Arabia co-chair)

Fresh Curry Leaves (Step 5/8)

Adoption-Pending CCFA/CCFL endorsement

- The standard establishes requirements for maturity, cleanliness, and labelling provisions.
- Members raised cross-committee consistency issues (especially concerning pesticide residue limits and additive use).
- Expected to be finalised in 2026 following these endorsements.

Alignment Work

Avocado & Asparagus layouts editorially revised

- Layouts were editorially revised to align with Codex format consistency (titles, definitions, tolerances).
- No technical changes to limits or classifications.
- This work improves coherence across all FFV standards, facilitating electronic Codex publication.

New Work (Step 2)

Approved

- Fresh Turmeric (Fiji-led) — Enhances food security and trade; no new scientific advice required.
- Fresh Broccoli (Mexico-led) — Revised to meet Codex format and strategy criteria; distinction from frozen broccoli emphasised.

Arab Regional Priorities and Contributions

Fresh Dates

Flagship Arab commodity; standard reflects regional production and trade realities.

Saudi Arabia co-chaired; Morocco and Tunisia provided inputs on maturity and moisture.

Strengthens fair trade, grading, and consumer confidence in Arab exports.

Arab Coordination

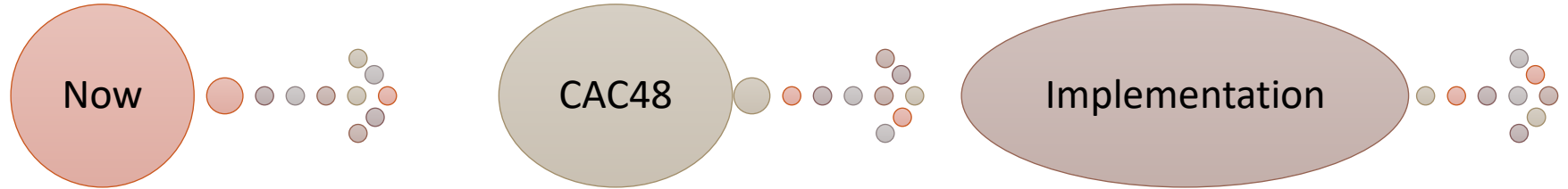
Reinforced through CCNE and the Arab Codex Initiative to ensure unified regional positions.

Next Opportunities

Nominate experts to EWGs on FFV layout, Turmeric, and Broccoli.

Promote regional data collection for product quality and inspection standards.

Preparing for CAC48 and the Future of CCFFV



Pending Endorsements

- Fresh Curry Leaves requires CCFA and CCFL endorsement prior to adoption.

Ongoing Work

- EWG re-established for FFV layout harmonisation; substantive changes deferred to future sessions.
- Continued alignment of existing FFV standards for clarity and consistency.

Strategic Outlook

- Future CCFFV sessions may adopt virtual or correspondence-based formats to enhance inclusivity.
- Fresh Dates serves as a Codex case study in building international consensus.
- Codex must maintain a balance between inclusivity, clarity, and technical rigour.

Pre-CAC48 Actions:

- ❖ Coordinate and confirm spokespersons for FFV items.

Post-CAC48 Actions

- ✓ Support national implementation of the Fresh Dates standard.
- ✓ Contribute regional data to ongoing EWGs on new work for developing a standard for fresh Turmeric and for fresh Broccoli.

CCFA55 Outcomes

Implications and Follow-Up
Actions in Preparation for CAC48



Background: CCFA55 (2025)

CCFA55 was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 24 to 28 March 2025, at the kind invitation of the Governments of the ROK and the People's Republic of China.

The Session was attended by delegates from 46 Member Countries, one Member Organization and 24 Observer Organizations.

Arab countries that participated in CCFA55 included: Morocco; Saudi Arabia and Sudan

Endorsement of JECFA Specifications and /or Revision of Maximum Levels (Agenda Items 3a–4a)

- The Committee endorsed the new and revised specifications for Natamycin (INS 235), Nisin A (to receive a separate INS number), and Polyglycerol Esters of Fatty Acids (INS 475) as well as 10 flavouring agents and 3 processing aids.
- CCFA55 endorsed the proposed maximum levels (MLs) and revised entries.

Follow-up:

- Forward the endorsed provisions, specifications, and revised levels to CAC48 for adoption.
- Include INS 475 in the Priority List for JECFA evaluation and request the GSFA EWG to review its uses and use levels.
- INS IWG to assign a distinct INS number for Nisin A.

Alignment of the Food Additive Provisions in Codex Commodity Standards (Agenda Items 4b)

- CCFA55 endorsed GSFA alignment for 15 Codex commodity standards. However, the Mixed Zaatar standard was deferred pending clarification from CCNE.
- **Follow-up:** CCNE to clarify classification and communicate its position to CCFA56 for final endorsement.
 - CCNE12 agreed with the proposal by CCFA regarding the suitability of FC 12.2.2 for products conforming to CXS 341R-2020, and to inform CCFA accordingly.

GSFA and INS System Management (Agenda Items 5a–5b)

- CCFA55 endorsed the report of the EWG on the GSFA and agreed that the revised draft provisions and editorial amendments be incorporated into the GSFA database.
- The Committee noted ongoing work on the technological justification of selected colour additives and requested the EWG to continue refining cross-category consistency and to harmonize exposure expressions with JECFA terminology.
- **CCFA55 approved revised and new entries for several additives.**

Follow-up:

- All endorsed and revised entries were forwarded to CAC48 for adoption at Step 5.
- Ongoing updates incorporated into GSFA database.
- Further data on the use of Paprika Extract (INS 160c(ii)) in soy beverages requested from CCASIA members.

International Numbering System (INS) : List Update 2025–2026 (Agenda Item 6)

- CCFA55 agreed to assign a distinct INS number to Nisin A, previously included under INS 234, and requested the Secretariat to incorporate this update in the next revision of the INS list.
- The Committee agreed to maintain the current INS entries for additives under review by JECFA pending new evaluations.

Follow-up:

- INS IWG to compile the 2025–2026 update (new entries, edits, deletions of obsolete synonyms, harmonized nomenclature), including the new INS entry for Nisin A.

Priority List for Future JECFA Evaluations (Agenda Item 7)

- CCFA55 endorsed the updated Priority List, including Polyglycerol Esters of Fatty Acids (INS 475) for impurity (3-MCPD/GE) review, Nisin A, and cell-culture media components for upcoming safety assessment.

Follow-up:

- Priority List forwarded to JECFA for evaluation.

Proposed Draft Standard : Standard for Baker's Yeast (Agenda Item 8)

- CCFA55 agreed that the proposed draft Standard for Baker's Yeast was not ready for advancement and therefore returned it to Step 2 for redrafting.

Follow-up:

- Redraft the Standard for Baker's Yeast taking into account the discussions held during the session.

Divergences Between GSFA, Commodity Standards, and Related Texts (Agenda Item 9)

- CCFA55 agreed to develop stand-alone working practices to address inconsistencies between the GSFA, commodity standards, and related Codex texts.

Follow-up:

- The draft guidance and templates will be circulated for comment before CCFA56.

Other Business and Future Work (Agenda Item 10)

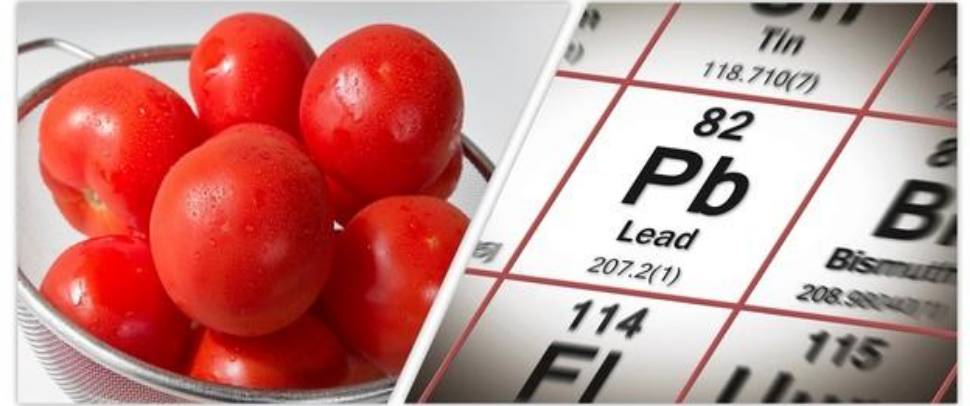
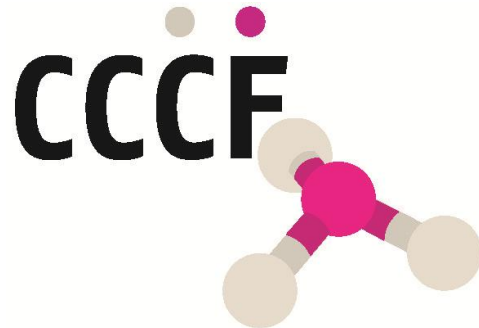
- CCFA55 considered several discussion papers addressing emerging topics and future work areas.

Follow-up:

- Ongoing collaboration with FAO on mapping GSFA Food Categories (FCs) to the FoodEx2 Database to enhance harmonization, exposure assessment, and digital traceability of additive uses.

CCCF18 Outcomes

Implications and Follow-Up
Actions in Preparation for CAC48



INTRODUCTION

The outcomes and proposals from CCCF18 will be presented and discussed during CAC48 within the agenda item 4.4, ensuring continued progress toward globally harmonized food safety standards and future actions to address emerging challenges.

The Commission is invited to adopt the standards and related texts and to endorse discontinuation of work as listed in CCCF18's report.

CCCF18: GOAL / AGENDA

The 18th session of CCCF covered a wide array of topics through 23 agenda items, including development and revision of maximum levels (MLs) for specific contaminants such as lead, aflatoxins, and cadmium, significant updates to existing Codes of Practice and New works on the prevention and reduction of contaminants like pyrrolizidine alkaloids and acrylamide.

The critical review of these standards and related texts will be conducted by the 89th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC89).



INTRODUCTION

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENT OF ARAB COUNTRIES DURING CCCF18



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



Key Contributions and Proposals by Arab Countries at CCCF18

Saudi Arabia	Co-chair - EWG on the revision of the Code of Practice for the reduction of acrylamide in foods. Co-chair - EWG on aflatoxin B1 in raw materials and feed for milk-producing animals. Co-chair - EWG on the prevention and reduction of tropane alkaloids.
Qatar	Co-chair - EWG on the revision of the Code of Practice for the reduction of acrylamide in foods.
Egypt	Egypt offers to co-host CCCF19, tentatively scheduled for 19–23 October 2026, pending final confirmation.



DECISIONS AND PROPOSALS MADE BY CCCF18 SUBMITTED TO CAC48 FOR APPROVAL

Adoption of submitted standards and related texts



Title	Proposal for CAC48 Validation
Maximum Levels for Lead in Spices and Culinary Herbs	Adopt ML of 2.5 mg/kg for lead in spices, dried bark (Step 8) , 2.0 mg/kg for culinary herbs (with exceptions) (Step 5/8), for inclusion in the General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed (CXS 193-1995)
Revision of CoP for Reduction of Aflatoxins in Peanuts	Endorse draft Code of Practice for adoption (Step 5/8).
Editorial amendments to the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CXS 193-1995): Inclusion of MLs for marine biotoxins (Section 1.5 of the Standard for live and raw bivalve molluscs (CXS 292-2008))	
Editorial amendment to Annex X of CXS 193- 1995: Removal of outdated content from Annex X - Scientific justification for the guideline levels for radionuclides in foods contaminated following a nuclear or radiological emergency	

DECISIONS AND PROPOSALS MADE BY CCCF18 SUBMITTED TO CAC48 FOR APPROVAL

The discontinuation of work as listed bellow

Agenda Item /Title

ML of 2.5 mg/kg for lead in culinary herbs, dried

ML and associated sampling plan for total aflatoxins in ready-to eat peanuts



Active CCCF Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Title	Host Country	Co-Host(s)	Registration Deadline	Closing Date	Status
Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in Foods	United States of America	—	31/10/2025	29/05/2026	Active
Development of a Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A Contamination in Dried Fruits	Türkiye	United Kingdom	31/10/2025	30/06/2026	Active
Revision of the Code of Practice for Weed Control to Prevent and Reduce Pyrrolizidine Alkaloid Contamination	Türkiye	United Kingdom	31/10/2025	30/06/2026	Active
Discussion Paper on Maximum Limit for Methylmercury in Tuna and Associated Sampling Plan	New Zealand	Canada	31/10/2025	31/05/2026	Active
Discussion Paper on Options for Guidance on the Application of MLs to Spice Mixtures	Japan	India, Panama, USA	31/10/2025	30/06/2026	Active
Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Tropane Alkaloids in Food and Feed	China	Saudi Arabia	31/10/2025	29/05/2026	Active
Review of the Code of Practice for the Reduction of Aflatoxin B1 in Raw Materials and Feedstuffs for Milk-Producing Animals	Canada	Saudi Arabia	31/10/2025	30/05/2026	Active

Priority List as Endorsed by CCCF18

Contaminants Scheduled for Evaluation by JECFA

Dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs

Arsenic (inorganic and organic)

Scopoletin

Thallium

Perfluoroalkyl substances (e.g. PFOS, PFOA, PFNA, PFHxS)

Ethylene oxide (EtO) and 2- chloroethanol

Ochratoxin A (OTA)

Cadmium and lead in yerba mate

Bisphenol A: The Chairperson clarified that Members could submit additional information on BPA and other contaminants via the annual CL for priority consideration....

CCPR56 Outcomes

Implications and Follow-Up
Actions in Preparation for CAC48



Background: CCPR56 (2025)

CCPR56 was held in Santiago, Chile, from 8-13 September 2025 at the kind invitation of the Governments of Chile and China.

The Session was attended by delegates from 48 Member countries, one Member Organization, and nine Observer Organizations.

Arab countries that participated in **CCFA55** included: **Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates**

Report on items of general consideration arising from the 2023 JMPR meeting (Agenda Item 5a)

- Reported **delay of 2024 JMPR Report** due to differing expert opinions on the GECDE model.
- Agreed to **continue using IEDI** until GECDE validation is completed.
- Requested FAO/WHO to improve **transparency, validation, and data access**.

Follow-up:

- JMPR to **validate GECDE**, enhance data guidance, and report to **CCPR57**.

MRLs for Pesticides in Food and Feed (Agenda Item 6.1)

- **CCPR 56 Agreed to :**
 - Advanced a broad package of pesticide MRLs to Step 5/8 for adoption and revoked outdated CXLs.
 - Withdrew several MRLs under consideration.
 - Retained selected compounds under the 4-year rule pending new data.
 - Implemented database updates and corrections in line with the revised Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989).
- **Follow-up:** Forward MRLs to CAC48 for adoption at Step 5/8 and revoke outdated CXLs.

CXLs for Milk and Milk Fat (Agenda Item 6.2)

- CCPR 56 Confirmed the list of 31 fat-soluble pesticides to which the note applies.
- CCPR 56 Agreed to insert the note: “For monitoring and regulatory purposes, whole milk is to be analyzed, and the result compared with the MRL for whole milk.” next to CXLs for milk fat (FM 0183).
- **Follow-up:**
 - Inform CAC of the implementation and maintain alignment with the Procedural Manual (Section 4.8)

MRLs for Okra (Agenda Item 6.3)

- **Follow-up:** Countries to **finalize and submit data** for JMPR evaluation by CCPR57.

Guidelines for Monitoring Pesticide Reference Materials (Agenda Item 7)

- The Committee Agreed to advance the guidelines to Step 8 and forward to CAC48 (2025).
- **Follow-up:**
 - Inform CAC of the implementation and maintain alignment with the Procedural Manual (Section 4.8)

Management of Unsupported Compounds(Agenda Item 8.1)

The Committee Agreed to :

- Revoke CXLs for selected compounds (e.g., amitraz, fenthion, parathion-methyl).
- Retained Methamidophos/Acephate pending JMPR review.
- **Follow-up:**
 - Examine Carbaryl, Methyl Bromide, Disulfoton, Flumethrin, and Ethoxyquin under the internal management approach.

National Registrations Database (NRD) (Agenda Item 8.2)

- The Committee agreed to Suspend the NRD

Priority lists of pesticides for evaluation/re-evaluation by JMPR (Agenda Item 9)

- The Committee Agreed to :
 - Endorse the 2026 priority list of pesticides for JMPR evaluation and submit to CAC48 for approval
 - Refer Carbaryl (008), Methyl Bromide (052), Disulfoton (074), and Flumethrin (195) to the EWG on unsupported compounds without public health concern for consideration as potential new work.
- **Follow-up:** Forward the 2026 priority list of pesticides for to CAC48 for formal endorsement.

Coordination of Work Between CCPR and CCRVDF (Agenda Item 11)

- CCPR56 agreed to support continuation of the joint CCPR/CCRVDF EWG on dual-use compounds.
- **Follow-up:** Organize a joint virtual session of the CCPR/CCRVDF EWG to address priority dual-use compounds.

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