



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



THE THIRD CODEX AND FOOD REGULATORY FORUM

FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

Supporting the Enhancement of Food Control Systems in the SWP Region

29 – 31 March 2026

Hilton Hotel, Denarau Island, Nadi - Fiji

Session 1 – Opening and Strategic Framing

*Discussion of previous
and upcoming Codex
Committees and regional
coordination needs*

Dr. Amine Kassouf, GFoRSS

Introduction

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
 CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
 Forty-ninth Session
 CICC, Geneva, Switzerland
 6 - 10 July 2026

CCSCH8 Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs	Guwahati, Assam India	13/10/2025	17/10/2025
CCFH55 Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	Nashville, Tennessee United States of America	15/12/2025	19/12/2025
CCFO29 Codex Committee on Fats and Oils	Kuala Lumpur Malaysia	09/02/2026	13/02/2026
CCMAS45 Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling	Budapest Hungary	09/03/2026	13/03/2026
CCRVDF28 Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods	Minneapolis, Minnesota United States of America	23/03/2026	27/03/2026
CCFA56 Codex Committee on Food Additives	Chongqing China	13/04/2026	17/04/2026
CCFFP37 Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products	by correspondence	07/04/2026	08/05/2026
CCFL49 Codex Committee on Food Labelling	Ottawa Canada	11/05/2026	15/05/2026
CCEXEC90 Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	Geneva Switzerland	29/06/2026	03/07/2026
CAC49 Codex Alimentarius Commission	Geneva Switzerland	06/07/2026	10/07/2026

CCSCH8 - Draft Standards under Consideration

◆ Spices in different forms – Ongoing standard development

•Vanilla (Item 3.1)

- Advanced draft for adoption (Step 8)
- Key issues: styles (ground vs powdered), additives, terminology

•Large Cardamom (Item 3.2)

- Advanced draft for adoption (Step 5/8)
- Key issues of discussion (styles, characteristics, methods)

•Cinnamon (Item 4.1)

- Return the draft to step 2/3
- Several provisions remain under review

•Coriander (Item 5.1)

- Advanced draft for adoption (Step 5/8)

◆ Culinary herbs

•Sweet Marjoram (Item 6.1)

- Advanced draft for adoption (Step 5)
- Includes chemical/physical characteristics and methods
- Some parameters remain for further discussion

CCSCH8 - Draft Standards under Consideration

◆ Labelling – Country of Harvest (Item 2.1)

Discussion on introducing “**Country of Harvest (CoH)**” in addition to Country of Origin (COO). **Diverging views:**

Support: transparency, authenticity, fraud prevention

Concerns: enforceability, lack of verification methods, trade impact

CCSCH8 agreed to request:

(i) CCFL49 to consider:

(a) clarifying subsection 4.5.2 of CXS 1-1985, specifically with respect to “change the nature of the food” and/or to consider the possibility to further define/refine this subsection and specifically define “change the nature of the food” or provide guidance on the application of subsection 4.5.2.

(b) providing additional guidance by defining COO and COH.

(i) CCEXEC and CAC to consider providing further guidance on how CCFICS texts could be best integrated into commodity committee standards to provide for a more integrated approach to the inclusion of other fair trade related tools how to address issues such as food fraud, traceability/product tracing....

CCSCH8 - Draft Standards under Consideration

Trade Data Availability (Item 7.1)

- Persistent lack of **disaggregated trade data** for spices and culinary herbs
 - Most data is aggregated under general headings ("spices", "culinary herbs").
- Limits prioritization and development of Codex standards
- Key challenges:
 - Informal trade, smallholder production
 - Aggregated data (e.g., HS codes, FAOSTAT)
- Proposed direction:
 - Shift toward **group standards**
 - Increase flexibility in data requirements
 - **Encourage regional data sharing and coordination**

CCFH55: Major Outcomes - Standards & Guidelines

Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production and Processing (CXG 100-2023)

ANNEX II: Fish and Fishery Products

ANNEX IV: Water fit-for-purpose assessment, safety management, and technologies for recovery and treatment of water for reuse .

(Item 5)

- forward Annexes II and IV to CAC49 for adoption at Step 5/8;
- propose that CCFFP may consider whether it was necessary to update the Code of practice for fish and fishery products (CXC 52-2003) and other Codex texts under their remit;

Proposed draft revision of the guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to the control of viruses in food (CXG 79-2012) (Agenda item 7)

- return the proposed draft guidelines to Step 2 for further elaboration and to update the prevention and intervention measures based on the JEMRA virus report Part 2....

CCFH55: Major Outcomes - Standards & Guidelines

Proposed draft revision of the guidelines for the control of campylobacter and salmonella in chicken meat (CXG 78-2011) (Agenda Item 8)

CCFH55 noted that all issues had been addressed and that the guidelines were ready to advance in the Step procedure and agreed to forward the revised guidelines to CAC49 for adoption at Step 5/8.

◆ **Listeria monocytogenes in RTE Foods (Agenda Item 9)**

- Agreed to revise and advance the Guidelines (step 5/8), incorporating latest JEMRA advice
- Adopted updated definition of RTE foods, including the concept of “*reasonably foreseeable use*”
- Strengthened alignment with CXC 1-1969 (General Principles of Food Hygiene)
- Revised annexes structure and content to improve usability and risk-based approach

CCFO29: Key Outcomes

- **Agenda item 5: Proposed draft revisions to codex standards on fats and oils to reduce trans-fatty acid (TFA) intake**

CCFO29 agreed to return the proposed draft revisions to Step 2/3 for redrafting and establish an EWG, chaired by Saudi Arabia and co-chaired by the European Union to revise both the definitions and the essential composition provisions and related aspects on checking for compliance.

- **Agenda item 6: Proposed draft standard for microbial omega-3 oils**

CCFO29 agreed to:

- forward the draft standard for microbial omega-3 oils to CAC49 for **adoption at Step 5**
- forward the provisions for labelling and methods of analysis to CCFL and CCMAS for endorsement.
- request CCCF to consider extending the MLs of arsenic and lead for edible fats and oils in CXS 193-1995 to microbial omega-3 oils;
- forward the food additive provisions to CCFA for and request CCFA to advise on the appropriate categorization of microbial omega-3 oils in CXS 192-1995,
- establish an EWG, chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by China,

CCFO29: Key Outcomes

- **Agenda item 8: Revision to the standard for olive oil and olive pomace oil (CXS 33-1981)**

Discussions on the revision to the Standard for olive oil and olive pomace oil (CXS 33 -1981) focused on:

- ❖ the progress on the collection of scientific data and information in relation to the evolution of pyropheophytin “a” (PPP) and 1,2-diglycerides (1,2-DAGs) in extra virgin olive oil and CCFO request FAO to undertake an analysis of the information and data collected.
- ❖ On another aspect related to authenticity parameters for olive oil, specifically the decision tree associated with 4 α -desmethylsterols levels, CCFO followed up on the recommendations of CAC47 and established an EWG chaired by Syria and co-chaired by Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Australia and IOC to develop and implement the framework for data collection on all relevant parameters and promote collection of such data for further consideration at CCFO30.

CCFO29: New Work Proposals

CCFO29 agreed:

- to submit the project document on the revision to CXS 210-1999 to include shea butter to CAC49 for approval.
- not to start new work on the proposed revision to CXS 210-1999 to include virgin coconut oil due to identified gaps that would need further clarification.
- To submit the project document on the revision to CXS 210-1999 to adjust stearic acid content for high oleic acid sunflower seed oil to CAC49 for approval (Proposal from Iran).
- to submit the project document on the revision of CXS 210-1999 to include sea buckthorn pulp oil and sea buckthorn seed oil to CAC49 for approval .

CCMAS45: Key Outcomes

◆ Agenda Item 3 – Endorsement of Methods, NPC & Sampling Plans

👉 Core technical agenda item of CCMAS45

CCMAS45 decided to endorse multiple methods and sampling plans from commodity and regional committees (CCASIA, CCNE, CCFO, CCSCH, CCCF).

Key outcomes:

•Mycotoxins (CCCF):

- Endorsed sampling plans for:
 - Total aflatoxins (AFT)
 - Ochratoxin A (OTA) in spices

•Numeric Performance Criteria (NPC):

- Addressed challenges for “**sum of components**” (e.g., total aflatoxins)
- Agreed to:
 - Revise guidance for consistency
 - Ensure analytical ranges cover MLs

CCMAS45: Key Outcomes

- ◆ **Agenda Item 4 – Matters Pending from CCMAS44**

- ◆ **4.1 – Review of methods in commodity standards**

CCMAS45 reiterated the importance of review and alignment of methods across codex texts and agreed to submit the revisions regarding methods related to **fish and fishery products, fats and oils, cereals, pulses and legumes and derived products** for CAC49 for adoption.

- ◆ **4.2 – Protein method in quinoa**

CCMAS45 decided to retain ISO 1871 as Type IV for protein in quinoa, noting the reservation of Peru to this decision; ii. retype ISO 1871 as Type IV for protein in teheña.

CCMAS45: Key Outcomes

◆ Agenda Item 5 – Review of Methods in CXS 234 (Workable Packages)

👉 Major structural/harmonization work

◆ 5.1 – Fruit juices

- Continued **review and rationalization of methods**
- Focus on:
 - Removing obsolete methods
 - Improving consistency

◆ 5.2 – Cocoa & chocolate

- Ongoing **alignment of methods with current standards**

◆ 5.3 – Sugars & honey

- Extensive review and restructuring of methods

Overall decision:

- Continue **progressive harmonization of CXS 234-1999**

CCMAS45: Key Outcomes

◆ Agenda Item 6 – Methods for Precautionary Allergen Labelling

Objective of the Work:

- Provide technical input to CCFL on available analytical methods for allergen detection.
- Evaluate whether these methods are fit for purpose relative to established action levels (ALs).
- Review validation status and analytical performance of currently used methods.

CCMAS45 agreed to forward the reply together with the two tables, as presented in Appendix V, to CCFL.

◆ Agenda Item 7 – Sampling Plans

◆ 7.1 – Review of sampling plans in CXS 234

- Continue review and improvement of **existing sampling plans**

◆ 7.2 – Sampling for bulk / heterogeneous lots

- Advance discussion on **Mycotoxins sampling** / Large/heterogeneous lot challenges

CCRVD28: Key Outcomes

AGENDA ITEM 6: MRLs for Fumagillin Dicyclohexylamine (DCH) in Fish (Fillet) and Honey

- retain the MRLs for fumagillin DCH in fish (fillet) and honey at Step 7, pending the outcomes of the JECFA re-evaluation.

AGENDA ITEM 7.1: Extrapolation of MRLs for Camelids

- MRLs that met extrapolation criteria were advanced for adoption at step 5/8.

AGENDA ITEM 7.2: Extrapolation of MRLs to Edible Offal Tissues Other than Liver and Kidney

- conduct a pilot on tetracyclines, ceftiofur, and ivermectin to test the proposed criteria for extrapolation of established Codex MRLs to values for “other edible offal”.

CCRVD28: Key Outcomes

AGENDA ITEM 8.1: Guidelines on Risk-Based Actions Following Detection of Residues Caused by Feed Carryover

- forward the Guidelines to CAC49 for adoption at Step 5/8

AGENDA ITEM 8.2: Action Levels for Nicarbazin and Lasalocid in Chicken Eggs

- forward the action levels of 0.35 mg/kg and 0.15 mg/kg, for nicarbazin and lasalocid in chicken eggs respectively, to CAC49 for adoption at Step 5/8

Agenda Item 9: Coordination of Work between CCPR and CCRVDF

strengthened CCPR–CCRVDF coordination through joint EWGs, harmonized risk-assessment approaches, and improved national coordination, alongside advancing consistent and fit-for-purpose food descriptors to ensure coherent MRL application and avoid future inconsistencies.

CCFA56: Upcoming Discussions

Agenda Item	Agenda Subject
3(a)	FAO/WHO & JECFA (100th meeting) outcomes
3(b)	Draft specifications for additives (JECFA)
4(a)	Endorsement/revision of maximum levels
4(b)	Alignment of food additive provisions
5(a)	GSFA – EWG report
5(b)	GSFA proposals (new/revisions)
6	Revision of INS (numbering system)
7	Priority list for JECFA evaluation
8	Standard for baker's yeast
9	GSFA working practices & templates
10	Cell-based food safety assessment guideline

CCFL49: Upcoming Discussions

Agenda Item	Agenda Subject
2.1	The use of “country of harvest” in addition to the mandatory declaration of country of origin in food labelling of spices
4	Consideration of labelling provisions in draft Codex standards (endorsement)
5	Annex to the General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods (CXS 1-1985): Guidelines on the use of precautionary allergen labelling (PAL) (Step 7)
6	Amendments to the General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods (CXS 1- 1985): Provisions relevant to joint presentation and multipack formats (Step 4)
7	Guidelines on application of food labelling provisions in emergencies (Step 4)

