

Addendum to the Action Plan of the Arab Codex Initiative – Implementation Priorities for September–December 2026

1. Purpose and Scope of the Addendum

This Addendum complements the Action Plan of the Arab Codex Initiative and defines the priority activities to be implemented during the September–December 2026 period in preparation for the 50th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC50). It should be read in conjunction with the [Action Plan](#), which remains the principal reference framework guiding the implementation of the Initiative.

Building on the progress and lessons from the previous implementation cycle (see [Arab Codex Initiative Progress Report](#)), this Addendum identifies the priority Codex committees and related activities to be supported during the September–December 2026 period, while highlighting areas requiring strengthened attention, particularly priority Codex committees, targeted capacity building, regional coordination, and follow-up of priority Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) and ongoing Codex work.

2. Priorities for the September–December 2026 Implementation Cycle

During the September–December 2026 implementation cycle, the Arab Codex Initiative will support regional engagement across six priority Codex committees (**Table 1**). All six committees are considered relevant to the Region and will therefore be covered through the Initiative, with the nature and level of support adapted to their respective agendas, identified regional priorities, and opportunities for coordinated regional engagement.

In line with the priority-setting approach established in the [Action Plan \(Annex I\)](#), the agendas of these committees will be reviewed in consultation with National Codex Contact Points to identify specific items requiring focused technical analysis, coordination, and support. This process will guide the preparation of regional activities and positions, as appropriate, throughout the implementation period.

Table 1: Priority committees targeted during the September–December 2026 implementation cycle.

Codex Committee	Session	Date	Location / Modality	Main Areas of Interest	Proposed Coordination Meeting Date
Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)	CCPR57	7–12 September 2026	Beijing, China	Management of pesticide residues	03/09/2026
Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP)	CCMMP11	29 September–29 October 2026	By correspondence	Proposed draft standard for pasteurized liquid camel milk	24/09/2026
Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)	CCFICS28	12–17 October 2026	Perth, Australia	Principles for traceability, guidelines on the prevention and control of food fraud	08/10/2026
Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)	CCCF19	19–23 October 2026	Cairo, Egypt	Contaminants and toxins in foods and feeds; the region involved in several EWGs	15/10/2026
Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)	CCNFSDU 45	2–6 November 2026	Nuremberg, Germany	Nutrient reference values (NRVs), draft standard for foods for older infants and young children	29/10/2026
Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)	CCFH56	16–20 November 2026	Scottsdale, Arizona, USA	Food hygiene and microbiological food safety, food allergen management for food business operators	12/11/2026

3. Strengthened Capacity-Building Component

During the previous implementation period, the organization of the 5th Arab Codex and Food Regulatory Forum could not proceed as planned due to the geopolitical situation in the Region. Subject to confirmation and prevailing circumstances, the Initiative will aim to organize the Forum during the September–December 2026 period.

Additional capacity-building activities will also be pursued, subject to identified needs, prevailing conditions, and available resources. These may include targeted initiatives on food risk analysis, data collection and management, and laboratory capacity building and training, with specific activities and modalities to be announced as appropriate.

4. Follow-up of Regional and International EWGs

The Initiative will continue to closely follow and support the work of priority Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) of particular relevance to the Region. During the September–December 2026 implementation period, particular attention will be given to the following ongoing EWGs and associated activities (**Table 2**).

Table 2: Priority EWGs and planned support during the September–December 2026 implementation cycle.

Committee	EWG	Lead / Co-lead	Planned Involvement during September–December 2026
CCFO29	Development of a Data Collection Framework for Compositional and Quality Parameters of Olive Oils	Chair: Syria; Co-chairs: Australia, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and IOC	Continue providing technical and operational support to the EWG, with particular emphasis on supporting the implementation of the proposed data collection framework and assisting Arab countries wishing to generate and submit relevant data.
CCNE12	Review and Completion of Methods of Analysis and Sampling Provisions in CCNE Regional Commodity Standards	Chair: Oman; Co-chair: Qatar	Support the work of the EWG from technical and operational perspectives, while facilitating appropriate engagement with relevant international observer organizations and technical experts.
CCNE12	CCNE Regional Work Plan for 2026–2027	Chair: Lebanon; Co-chair: Libya	Maintain close coordination with the EWG, follow up on feedback related to the first progress report on implementation, and seek to align activities undertaken during the upcoming implementation cycle with the EWG's recommendations and identified regional priorities.

5. Other Cross-Cutting Activities

During the implementation period, the Initiative will aim to support the Regional Coordinator and CCNE Secretariat, in consultation with relevant regional partners and stakeholders, in initiating preparations for the 13th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNE13), to be held in Muscat, Oman, from 5 to 9 December 2027. This will include supporting the early identification and development of potential new work proposals for consideration at CCNE13 that reflect the priorities, needs, and perspectives of the Near East Region, while facilitating early technical consultation and coordination among interested countries and stakeholders.

6. Reporting

At the conclusion of the September–December 2026 implementation period, a second progress report will be prepared and shared with the EWG on the “Implementation of the CCNE Regional Work Plan”, documenting the activities undertaken, key outputs and progress achieved during the cycle.