



Codex News – November 30, 2021

Recent Committee Sessions

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

The 44th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC44) was unable to conclude the adoption of its report on November 18, 2021, leaving two outstanding sections for adoption-- Agenda Item 2: CCEXEC recommendations on the path forward for the proposed Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) on Zilpaterol and Agenda Item 11: Other Business. To facilitate report adoption of the outstanding sections of the draft CAC44 report, the Codex Secretariat issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/80/OCS-CAC) requesting comments from Members and Observers that participated in CAC44 by November 30, 2021. The CL, available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, and Russian, may be founds at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters>. An additional virtual session of CAC44 has now been confirmed for December 14, 2021 to consider the comments submitted in response to CL80 and to complete the report adoption process. For additional information, please contact the U.S. Codex Office (uscodex@usda.gov).

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

Aflatoxins in Cereals and Cereal-Based Products: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Brazil, and co-chaired by India, working in English, on maximum levels (MLs) for aflatoxins in maize grain; flour, meal, semolina, and flakes derived from maize; husked and polished rice; sorghum grain destined for further processing and cereal-based food for infants and young children, as well as associated sampling plans. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) as soon as possible. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) to codexbrasil@inmetro.gov.br with a copy to ligia.schreiner@anvisa.gov.br and larissa.porto@anvisa.gov.br as soon as possible. As this EWG will operate on the Codex Online Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as their official representative to participate in the EWG.

Aflatoxins in Ready-to-Eat Peanuts: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by India, working in English, to (i) consider new or additional data available on GEMS/Food only and take into account old and new data for comparison; (ii) update the working paper that was last presented at CCCF12 (2018) (CX/CF 18/12/10) and (iii) prepare

revised proposals for MLs for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan, taking into consideration the outcome of the impact assessment conducted by the 83rd Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA83) and the new and old datasets available on GEMS/Food. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by December 8, 2021. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their CCP to codex-india@nic.in with a copy to dprasad@apeda.gov.in by December 10, 2021. As this EWG will operate on the Codex Online Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as their official representative to participate in the EWG.

Cadmium in Cocoa Powder: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Ecuador, and co-chaired by Ghana, working in English and Spanish, on MLs for cocoa powder containing or declaring 100% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis ready for consumption. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by December 17, 2021. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their CCP to codexalimentarius@normalizacion.gob.ec with a copy to cccf.ewg.ecuador@agrocalidad.gob.ec by December 20, 2021. As this EWG will operate on the Codex Online Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as their official representative to participate in the EWG.

Cadmium Contamination in Cocoa Beans: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Peru, and co-chaired by Ecuador and Ghana, working in English and Spanish, to continue work on the Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) as soon as possible. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their CCP to codex@minsa.gob.pe with a copy to JAGUILAR@senasa.gob.pe by December 5, 2021. As this EWG will operate on the Codex Online Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as their official representative to participate in the EWG.

Lead in Certain Food Categories: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Brazil, working in English, on MLs for lead in dried spices and culinary herbs, including dried bulbs, rhizomes, and roots; fresh culinary herbs; eggs; sugars and sugar-based candies; cereal-based products for infants and young children and ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) as soon as possible. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their CCP to

codexbrasil@inmetro.gov.br with a copy to ligia.schreiner@anvisa.gov.br and larissa.porto@anvisa.gov.br as soon as possible. As this EWG will operate on the Codex Online Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as their official representative to participate in the EWG.

Methylmercury in Fish: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by New Zealand, and co-chaired by Canada, working in English, to (i) develop MLs for orange roughy and pink cusk eel; (ii) consider further data to establish the feasibility of setting an ML for Patagonian toothfish; (iii) develop the sampling plan and (iv) conduct a literature review to assess the feasibility of developing guidance for the management of methylmercury in fish. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) as soon as possible. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their CCP to codexnz@mpi.govt.nz with a copy to HC.Codex.Canada.SC@Canada.ca by December 5, 2021. As this EWG will operate on the Codex Online Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as their official representative to participate in the EWG.

Mycotoxin Contamination in Cassava and Cassava-Based Products: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Nigeria, and co-chaired by Ghana, working in English, to develop a Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products, with focus on aflatoxins (AFT) and ochratoxin A (OTA). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) as soon as possible. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their CCP to codexsecretariat@son.gov.ng by December 5, 2021. As this EWG will operate on the Codex Online Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as their official representative to participate in the EWG.

Mycotoxins in Spices: CCCF invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by India, working in English, to (i) consider new or additional data available on GEMS/Food; (ii) update the working paper that was last presented at CCCF12 (2018) (CX/CF 18/12/11) and (iii) prepare revised proposals for MLs for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in spices (i.e. nutmeg, chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric), and associated sampling plans, taking into account the new and old datasets available on GEMS/Food. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by December 7, 2021. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their CCP to codex-india@nic.in with a copy to sp-spices@fssai.gov.in by December 10, 2021. As this EWG will operate on the Codex Online Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as their official representative to participate in the EWG.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

Alignment of the food additive provisions of commodity standards and relevant provisions of the GSFA: CCFA invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Australia, and co-chaired by the United States and Japan, working in English, to consider:

- a) re-circulating for a third time the alignment of the following milk and milk products commodity standards which were circulated twice for comments in 2020: CXS 207-1999; CXS 243-2003; CXS 253-2006; CXS 262-2006; CXS 281-1971; CXS 282-1971; CXS 288-1976; CXS 290-1995 and CXS 331-2017;
- b) investigating the development and implementation issues associated with establishing Table 3 notes in the *Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)*, in consultation with the Codex Secretariat;
- c) whether the information in the Procedural Manual is sufficient or if amendments are required to ensure future divergence does not occur, taking into account the Guideline Document on Avoiding Future Divergence of Food Additive Provisions in the GSFA with Commodity Standards;
- d) CCPFV food additives provisions to resolve the technical issues identified by the VWG in their consideration of endorsement, specifically for: Standard for Mango Chutney; Standard for Gochujang; and Standard for Chili Sauce;
- e) the alignment of the following CCNFSDU commodity standards: CXS 72-1981; CXS73-1981; CXS 74-1981; CXS 156-1987; CXS 181-1991; CXS 203-1995; and the Guideline for the Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF); and
- f) alignment for the regional standards: CCAFRICA (CXS 325R-2017); CCEURO (CXS 40R-1981).

Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Ken Lowery (Ken.Lowery@usda.gov) by February 18, 2022. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their CCP to international@foodstandards.gov.au by February 25, 2022. Please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as their official representative to participate in the EWG.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

E-Commerce: CCFL invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by the United Kingdom, and co-chaired by Chile, Ghana, India, and Japan, working in English and Spanish, on the development of guidance on the sale of food through the means of e-commerce.

Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) by December 13, 2021. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their CCP to

matthew.fewtrell@defra.gov.uk by December 31, 2021. As this EWG will operate on the Codex Online Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as their official representative to participate in the EWG.

Innovation –Use of Technology in Food Labelling: CCFL invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Canada, working in English, to address the gaps in the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS1-1985) to enable the general principles to apply to food information provided through technology and to develop broad guidelines on the use of technology in food labelling. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) by January 5, 2022. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details including participant's name, official title or position, organization or country, and email address via their CCP to codex_canada@hc-sc.gc.ca with a copy to Codex_CFIA@inspection.gc.ca by January 10, 2022. As this EWG will operate on the Codex Online Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as their official representative to participate in the EWG.

Requests for Comments

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

Data Related to Nitrates and Nitrites: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/82-FA) requesting for general information on the availability of data related to nitrates and nitrites. The CL is currently available in English at the following link:

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please set them to Ken Lowery (Ken.Lowery@usda.gov) by September 1, 2022. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted to ccfa@cfsa.net.cn with a copy to codex@fao.org September 15, 2022.

Ortho-Phenylphenol in Food: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/83-FA) requesting for information on commercial use of ortho-phenylphenol (INS 231) and sodium ortho-phenylphenol (INS 232) in food. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please set them to Ken Lowery (Ken.Lowery@usda.gov) by September 1, 2022. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted to ccfa@cfsa.net.cn with a copy to codex@fao.org September 15, 2022.

Substances Proposed for Evaluation by JECFA: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/81-FA) requesting for information and comments on the priority list of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters>. If

you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please set them to Ken Lowery (Ken.Lowery@usda.gov) by January 2, 2023. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted to ccfa@cfsa.net.cn with a copy to codex@fao.org January 15, 2023.

Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

New Work Proposals: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/79-FFV) requesting proposals on new work for the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link:

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) by December 15, 2021. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted to codex@fao.org with a copy to codexmex@economia.gob.mx by December 31, 2021.

Other

Codex Trust Fund: Round 6 of the Codex Trust Fund is currently accepting applications from countries or groups of countries wishing to apply for support until December 17, 2021. All application documents may be found at: <https://www.who.int/initiatives/codex-trust-fund/support>. For further information, please contact: codextrustfund@who.int.