



Codex News – September 20, 2023

### **Upcoming Committee Meetings**

#### ***Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)***

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CCGP will convene physically in Bordeaux, France from October 2-6, 2023. The report adoption will take place on the last day of the Session. The Session and side events will be broadcasted in listening mode in English, French, and Spanish. The provisional agenda and other documents related to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of CCGP are available at: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCGP&session=33>. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos Bhat ([marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov](mailto:marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office.

#### ***Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)***

The 46<sup>th</sup> Session of CAC will meet in Rome, Italy from November 27 to December 2, 2023, from 4:00-7:00 EST (10:00-13:00 CET) and 9:00-12:00 EST (15:00-18:00 CET). The report adoption will take place in person from the last day of the session from 3:00-12:00 EST (9:00-18:00 CET). Remote participation (via Zoom) will be possible for listening and verbal interventions. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 46<sup>th</sup> session of CAC are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CAC&session=46>. For additional information, please contact the U.S. Codex Office ([uscodex@usda.gov](mailto:uscodex@usda.gov)).

#### ***Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)***

The 7<sup>th</sup> Session of CCSCH will take place physically in Kochi, Kerala, India from January 29 to February 2, 2024, from 3:30-11:00 EST (9:30-17:00 CET). The report adoption will take place in person on the last day of the session starting at 3:30 EST (9:30 CET). The provisional agenda and other working documents related to the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of CCSCH will be posted as soon as they are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/related-meetings/pt/?committee=CCSCH>. For additional information, please contact Heather Selig ([heather.selig@usda.gov](mailto:heather.selig@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office.

### **Upcoming Public Meeting**

#### ***Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)***

The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on October 18, 2023, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. EDT to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC46), which will meet in Rome, Italy from November 27-December 2, 2023.

- The public meeting will take place via Video Teleconference only. Documents related to the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the CAC will be accessible via the internet at the following address:

- <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CAC&session=46>.
- Mary Frances Lowe, U.S. Delegate to the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the CAC, invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: [maryfrances.lowe@usda.gov](mailto:maryfrances.lowe@usda.gov).
- Attendees may register to attend the public meeting at the following link: [www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltcuqgrzsuHOvxmm8j2MedkvGy-3fZOiA](http://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltcuqgrzsuHOvxmm8j2MedkvGy-3fZOiA). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## Requests for Comments

### ***Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC46)***

**Fermented Noni Fruit Juice:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/54/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on the draft Regional Standard for Fermented Noni Fruit Juice. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-whocodexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Marie Maratos Bhat ([marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov](mailto:marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office by September 14, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) using the Online Commenting System (OCS) (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 28, 2023.

**Pesticide MRLs:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/78/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides in food and feeds. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <https://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 Marie Maratos Bhat ([marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov](mailto:marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office by October 2, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 15, 2023.

**Classification of Food and Feed:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/79/OCS-CAC) requesting comments on the revision of the *Classification of Food and Feed* (CXA 4-1989). The CL is currently available in English at the following link: <https://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 Marie Maratos Bhat ([marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov](mailto:marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office by October 2, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by October 15, 2023.

### ***Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC)***

**Strategic Plan:** The Codex Secretariat recently issued a Circular Letter (CL 2022/65/OCS-EXEC) requesting comments on the development of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 – Part 1 – how Codex works as part of the multilateral system on food and trade. The CL is currently available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, and Chinese 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 the U.S. Codex Office ([uscodex@usda.gov](mailto:uscodex@usda.gov)) as soon as possible. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) prior to the extended deadline of September 25, 2023.

## **Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)**

**Codex Procedural Manual Update:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2023/80/OCS-GP) requesting comments on the proposed update to the Codex *Procedural Manual's* Guide to the Procedure for the Amendment and Revision of Codex Standards and Related Texts (Appendix I). 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 send them to Marie Maratos Bhat ([marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov](mailto:marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov)) by September 21, 2023. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS (<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org>) by September 24, 2023.

## **Electronic Working Groups (EWG)**

### **Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)**

**Food Labelling in Joint Presentation and Multipacks:** CCFL invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Colombia and co-chaired by Jamaica, working in English and Spanish, to prepare a preliminary draft text on food labelling in joint presentation formats and in multiple packages. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Marie Maratos Bhat ([marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov](mailto:marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov)) of the U.S. Codex Office 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 [dcastrou@invima.gov.co](mailto:dcastrou@invima.gov.co) with a copy to [sosorioa@invima.gov.co](mailto:sosorioa@invima.gov.co) 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 representatives to participate in the EWG.

## **Other**

**Codex Trust Fund:** The FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund just opened the eighth round of applications for support. All application documents can be found at <https://www.who.int/initiatives/codex-trust-fund/support>. The deadline for applications is December 20, 2023.

**Call for Data:** The 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF16) agreed to request the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) Secretariat to issue a call for data on cadmium and lead in quinoa and quinoa-based products, including foods for infants and young children. The call for data has been published at the following links:

### **FAO**

- <http://www.fao.org/3/cc7721en/cc7721en.pdf>
- <https://www.fao.org/food-safety/scientific-advice/calls-for-data-and-experts-expert-rosters/en/>

### **WHO**

- <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/request-for-data-on-cadmium-and-lead-in-quinoa-and-quinoa-based-products-including-foods-for-infants-and-young-children>
- <https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/overview>
- [https://www.who.int/groups/joint-fao-who-expert-committee-on-food-additives-\(jecfa\)](https://www.who.int/groups/joint-fao-who-expert-committee-on-food-additives-(jecfa))