Codex News – December 14, 2021

Upcoming Public Meetings

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

The U.S. Codex Program is sponsoring a public meeting on January 27, 2022, from 1:00 – 3:00PM EST to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 52nd Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH), on February 28 – March 4, 2022. The public meeting will take place virtually. Documents related to the 52nd Session of the CCFH will be accessible via the internet at the following address: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/en.

- Ms. Jenny Scott, U.S. Delegate to the 52nd Session of the CCFH, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov.
- Please register to attend the public meeting here: www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItf-yvrTwqE9yjYbgZbeWEHCpqWxw7mQ0.

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) 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-india@nic.in with a copy to dprasad@apeda.gov.in 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.

**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) 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 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 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.

**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 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.

**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 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.

**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), rand 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) 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-india@nic.in with a copy to sp-spices@fssai.gov.in 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.

**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 Labeling (CCFL)

Allergen Labelling: CCFL invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Australia, and co-chaired by the United Kingdom and the United States, working in English, to develop guidelines for precautionary allergen and advisory labelling and amendments to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods to introduce new allergen labelling provisions. 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 10, 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.contact@awe.gov.au by January 14, 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.

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

Pesticides for Evaluation by JMPR: CCPR invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Australia, working in English, to develop schedules and priority lists of pesticides for evaluation/re-evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Aaron Niman (Niman.aaron@epa.gov) and Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.Maratosbhat@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.Contact@agriculture.gov.au 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.

Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed: CCPR invites Members and Observers to join an EWG chaired by the United States, and co-chaired by The Netherlands, working in English to further the revision of the Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds (CXA 4-1989), and in particular to:

a) Consider the issue of okra and an appropriate representative commodity taking into account monitoring data submitted.
c) Continue to work on edible animal tissues (including edible offal) in collaboration with the CCRVDF/EWG on edible offal.
Consider the replies to CL 2020/13-PR on the harmonization of meat mammalian MRLs between CCPR and CCRVDF (Classification of Food and Feed: Class B – Primary Commodity of Animal Origin) and the definition of edible offal as recommended by CCRVDF and to continue to cooperate with the CCRVDF-EWG/edible offal to facilitate the harmonization of terminology/definitions that can facilitate the establishment of harmonized MRLs for compounds with dual uses for food of animal origin.

Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact (Niman.aaron@epa.gov) and Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.Maratosbhat@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 uscodex@usda.gov with a copy to info@codexalimentarius.nl 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.

Exempted compounds of low public health concern: CCPR invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Chile and co-chaired by India and the United States, working in English and Spanish, to further develop the Guidelines for compounds of low public health concerns that could be exempted from the establishment of Codex maximum residue limits for pesticides (CXLs) and to provide examples of compounds to facilitate the development of the Guidelines. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Aaron Niman (Niman.aaron@epa.gov) and Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.Maratosbhat@usda.gov) by January 3, 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 cassandra.pacheco@achipia.gob.cl with a copy to roxana.vera@sag.gob.cl by January 5, 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.

Periodic Review of Unsupported Compounds: CCPR invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Chile and co-chaired by Australia, India, and Kenya, working in English and Spanish, to further explore the management of unsupported compounds without public health concern scheduled for periodic review by JMPR. The specific terms of reference are to:

(i) further develop a management proposal for unsupported compounds without public health concern scheduled for periodic review based on Option 2b and 3:

(a) Option 2b - Only those CXLs for which there are registrations listed in the national registration database (NRD) will be retained and if so, to outline the amendments required in the Risk Analysis Principles applied by CCPR to operate this option.

(b) Option 3 - Codex members and observers are granted 4 years to fulfil the data requirements to maintain the CXLs. (i.e., 4-year rule). If members or observers are unable to address the data requirements, all CXLs are to be revoked.

(ii) further develop the recommendations under CX/PR 21/52/17, Appendix I, Terms of Reference (TOR) (ii) – explore options for efficient data support that could be addressed by Codex, FAO/WHO, JMPR, governments and the industry to further assist countries in implementing either options.
Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Aaron Niman (Niman.aaron@epa.gov) and Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.Maratosbhat@usda.gov) by January 3, 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 cassandra.pacheco@achipia.gob.cl with a copy to roxana.vera@sag.gob.cl by January 5, 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.

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

**Draft Standard for Turmeric**: CCSCH invites Members and Observers to join an EWG, chaired by Iran, and co-chaired by India, working in English, to develop a proposed draft standard for turmeric. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contributions to the EWG should contact Heather Selig (Heather.Selig@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 the following email addresses: sadat77@gmail.com and ranjith.a@nic.in 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.

**Recent Codex Delegation Reports**

**Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR)**

The report of the U.S. Delegate on the 8th Session of the TFAMR has been published. The report can be found at the following link: [https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/delegates-report-2021-tfamr.pdf](https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/delegates-report-2021-tfamr.pdf).

**Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)**

The report of the U.S. Delegate on the 27th Session of the CCFO has been published. The report can be found at the following link: [https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/delegates-report-2021-ccfo.pdf](https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/delegates-report-2021-ccfo.pdf).

**Requests for Comments**

**Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)**

**Forward Workplan**: The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/87-CF) requesting comments on the approach/methodology for the review of contaminant/staple food combinations for future work in the Forward workplan for CCCF. The CL is currently available in English, French, and Spanish at the following link: [http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 January 10, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the Online Commenting System (OCS) ([https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org](https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org)) by January 25, 2022.
**Priority List of Contaminants for Evaluation by JECFA:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/88-CF) requesting comments on the priority list of contaminants for evaluation or re-evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). The CL is currently available in English at the following link: [http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 March 14, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS ([https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org](https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org)) by March 25, 2022.

**Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)**

**Essential Composition of Sunflower Seed Oils:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/93/OCS-FO) requesting comments (on the proposed revision to the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CXS 210-1999) – Essential composition of Sunflower Seed oils. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: [http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 June 13, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS ([https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org](https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org)) by June 30, 2022.

**Inclusion of Avocado Oil:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/94/OCS-FO) requesting comments on the proposed revision to the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CXS 210-1999) – Inclusion of Avocado oil. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: [http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 June 13, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS ([https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org](https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org)) by June 30, 2022.

**List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/95/OCS-FO) requesting proposals for amendments to Appendix 2: List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes of the *Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk* (CXC 36-1987). The CL is currently available in English at the following link: [http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 June 13, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS ([https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org](https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org)) by June 30, 2022.

**New Work/Amendments:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/96-FO) requesting proposals for new work and/or amendments to existing CCFO texts. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: [http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 September 19, 2022. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP to codex@fao.org with a copy to ccfo_malaysia@moh.gov.my by September 30, 2022.
**Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)**

**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](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 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 by January 15, 2023.

**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](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 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 by 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](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 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 by September 15, 2022.

**Trisodium Citrate:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/92/OCS-FA) requesting comments on the use of trisodium citrate (INS 331(iii)) in Food Category 01.1.1 “Fluid milk (plain).” The CL is currently available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: [http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 Jenny Scott (jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov) and Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.Maratosbhat@usda.gov) by December 28, 2021. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS ([https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org](https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org)) by January 15, 2022.

**Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)**

**Control of Escherichia coli in Food:** The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2021/63/OCS-FH) requesting comments on the proposed draft guidelines for the control of Shiga Toxin-Producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in raw beef, fresh leafy vegetables, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, and sprouts. The CL is currently available in English at the following link: [http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters](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 Jenny Scott (jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov) and Marie Maratos Bhat (Marie.Maratosbhat@usda.gov) by January 11, 2022. Comments by Member countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS ([https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org](https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org)) by January 21, 2022.
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 CCFFV. 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) as soon as possible. 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.