

# Report of the U.S. Delegate on the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling

17-25 May 2021  
(Virtual)

The 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS41) convened virtually May 17 - 25, 2021. The session was chaired by Hungary and attended by delegates from 83 member countries, 1 member organization (the European Union), and 21 international intergovernmental and non-governmental observer organizations. The United States was represented by Dr. Gregory Noonan, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (Delegate); Dr. Timothy Norden, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Alternate Delegate) and three additional government advisors.

## Highlights

The Committee concluded a productive session addressing several issues associated with facilitating trade, food analysis and sampling and reaching conclusions generally consistent with U.S. objectives for the meeting.

- CCMAS agreed to inform the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) that there are no known validated objective methods to measure sweetness of carbohydrate sources, and that methods for fructans, beta-carotene, and lycopene were not endorsed because there are no provisions for their use in the *Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes* (CXS 72-1981).
- CCMAS could not reach consensus on method ISO 5537 | IDF 26 for determination of moisture content in dried milk because the equipment required for this method is reportedly not available in all countries and is very expensive.

The following paragraphs discuss the major conclusions of the Committee in more detail. The full official report of the session is available on the Codex Alimentarius website [HERE](#)

## Meeting Summary

The physical working group (PWG) on Endorsement of Methods of Analysis Provisions, co-chaired by the United States and Australia, met 11-12 May 2021 prior to CCMAS41 to discuss methods for infant formula, laver products, dried meat, fermented noni fruit juice, kava products, processed fruits and vegetables, and spices and culinary herbs. Numerous methods were endorsed at CCMAS41 and are found in Appendix II part 1 of the official report of the session. These standards will be sent to CAC44 (November 2021) for adoption by the Commission. The PWG also discussed three review packages (on dairy products, fats and oils, and cereals, pulses, and legumes), produced as part of the on-going review and update of the Codex Standard on *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999. The Dairy Workable Package was discussed line-by-line and the Committee reached consensus on most of the recommendations made by the physical working group (Agenda Item 4 Add 1). The Committee

did not reach consensus on the proposed method related to the determination of moisture content in dried milk (ISO 5537 | IDF 26). Members from the region of Latin America and the Caribbean expressed concerns about this method because the equipment required is reportedly not available in all countries and is very expensive to procure. CCMAS agreed to consider this issue again at its next session.

The Netherlands led the Fats and Oils workable package review (Agenda Item 4 Add 2). CCMAS agreed to refer endorsed methods for provisions pertaining to fat spreads and blended spreads; fats and oils (all); fats and oils not covered by individual standards; fish oils; named vegetable oils; and named animal fats (Appendix II, Part 1, REP21/MAS) to the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO). If there is agreement in CCFO, the methods may be forwarded directly to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for final approval at its next session (CAC44, November 2021) without further review by CCMAS. The Netherlands agreed to continue as chair of an EWG on the review of the remaining methods in Appendix II, Part 5.

The review of cereals, pulses, and legumes methods was introduced by a delegate from the Cereals & Grains Association (AACCI) (Agenda Item 4 Add 3). AACCI explained that the methods were being reviewed by relevant standards development organizations (SDO). CCMAS agreed that the review work should continue through an electronic working group (EWG) chaired by Canada and working in English only, in close coordination with the relevant SDOs (AACCI, AOAC International, International Standards Organization (ISO)).

The United States agreed to chair an EWG on the review of processed fruits and vegetable methods.

CCMAS agreed to the recommendations prepared by the EWG and led by Germany on the revisions of *Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty* (CXG54-2004). Comments were integrated into the revised document and CCMAS agreed to advance the revised draft to Step 8 (final adoption). CCMAS agreed to the recommendations prepared by the EWG and led by New Zealand, also reviewed the revisions of *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG50-2004). CCMAS agreed to recommend interim adoption of the revised document at Step 5, which will allow for comments and consideration at the next session, and to reestablish the EWG chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Germany.

CCMAS reviewed the discussion paper, prepared by Switzerland, on *Criteria for Selection of Type II Methods from Multiple Type III methods* (Agenda item 8). The paper details the prerequisites for endorsement of methods as Type III and proposed decision rules for selection of Type II methods from multiple Type III methods. The United States noted that the proposed approach should be consistent with the *Codex Procedural Manual*, which states that “methods applicable uniformly to various groups of commodities should be given preference over methods which apply only to individual commodities.” (*Procedural Manual*, 27<sup>th</sup> Ed., p. 76) CCMAS agreed the paper should be revised for further discussion at its next session.

## **Next Session**

The 42<sup>nd</sup> session of CCMAS is tentatively set for May 2022 and in Budapest, Hungary.