



21 March 2013

(13-1561)

Page: 1/3

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

## INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CODEX)

The following communication, received on 20 March 2013, is being circulated at the request of the Codex secretariat.

#### 1 CODEX SESSIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE (OCTOBER 2012)

- FAO/WO Coordinating Committee for Asia (Tokyo, Japan, 5-9 November 2012)
- Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (New Orleans, United States of America, 12-16 November 2012)
- FAO/WO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (San Jose, Costa Rica, 19-23 November 2012)
- Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (Bad Soden am Taunus, Germany, 3-7 December 2012)
- FAO/WO Coordinating Committee for the Near East (Beirut, Lebanon, 21-25 January 2013)
- FAO/WO Coordinating Committee for Africa (Yaoundé, Cameroon, 29 January-1 February 2013)
- *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding (Bern, Switzerland, 4-8 February 2013)
- Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (Chiang Mai, Thailand, 18-22 February 2013)
- Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (Langkawi, Malaysia, 25 February, 1 March 2013)
- Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (Budapest, Hungary, 4-8 March 2013)

In particular, the SPS Committee may wish to note the following:

1.1. The **Codex Committee on Food Hygiene** finalised the Proposed Draft Revision of the Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods and the Annex on Berries to the Code of Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for final adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (July 2013). It agreed to proceed with its work on the Proposed Draft Guidelines for Control of Specific Zoonotic Parasites in Meat: *Trichinella* spp. and *Cysticercus bovis*, and with the revision of the renamed Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Dried Aromatic Herbs. The Committee expressed appreciation to FAO/WHO for the scientific advice provided and put forward new requests for scientific advice from FAO/WHO; and expressed appreciation to OIE for their contribution to the work of the Committee and noted the need for continued collaboration in areas of mutual interest. The Committee proposed new work on a Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Moisture Foods and agreed to consider at its next session two discussion papers on (i) occurrence and control of parasites in foods; and (ii) the need to revise the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and its annexes.

---

Full report: [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports\\_2013/REP13\\_FHe.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports_2013/REP13_FHe.pdf)

1.2. The *ad hoc* Intergovernmental **Task Force on Animal Feeding** finalised the Draft Guidelines on Application of Risk Assessment for Feed and the renamed Guidance on Prioritizing Hazards in Feed, for adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Full report: [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports\\_2013/REP13\\_AFe.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports_2013/REP13_AFe.pdf)

1.3. The **Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems** finalised the Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems and the amendments, addressing animal feeding, to the Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Safety Emergency Situations (CAC/GL 19-1995) for adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Committee agreed to consider at its next session (in approximately 18 months) proposals for new work on principles and guidelines for the elaboration and management of questionnaires directed at exporting countries; principles and guidelines for monitoring regulatory performance of national food control systems; and the revision of the Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Safety Emergency Situations (CAC/GL 19-1995).

Full report: [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports\\_2013/REP13\\_FCe.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports_2013/REP13_FCe.pdf)

1.4. The **Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling** finalised the Principles for the Use of Sampling and Testing in International Food Trade (section on Principles) for adoption by the Commission and agreed to consider further the section on Explanatory Notes. It agreed to proceed with it work on the application of the criteria approach to the determination of marine biotoxins in bivalve molluscs and similar provisions; and will consider sampling issues at its next session.

1.5. The **FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees** consider Codex matters of interest to the region, promote exchange of information within the region on food legislation and food control issues, Codex structures and participation, the use of Codex standards, identifying issues related to the use or non-use of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional levels. They define the problems and needs of the region concerning food standards and food control, and some of them develop regional standards for products that may not be traded internationally but for which there is significant regional trade. The Commission also forwarded some questions on general issues to Coordinating Committees, especially as regards the draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019.

1.6. FAO and WHO generally convene regional workshops on issues of interest to the region in conjunction with the Coordinating Committees, and with funding from the Codex Trust Fund. Regional workshops were convened prior to the FAO/WO Coordinating Committees listed above.

1.7. More information on technical cooperation activities will be presented to the SPS Committee in June 2013, as a comprehensive document will be prepared by FAO and WHO for the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (July 2013).

## 2 FORTHCOMING CODEX MEETINGS

- Codex Committee on Food Additives (Beijing, China, 18-22 March 2013)
- Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (Moscow, Russian Federation, 8-12 April 2013)
- Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (Beijing, China, 6-11 May 2013)
- Codex Committee on Food Labelling (Charlottetown, Canada, 14-17 May 2013)

In particular, the SPS Committee may wish to note the following:

2.1. The **Codex Committee on Food Additives** will proceed with its work on food additive provisions in the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA), amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives, and Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food

Additives. It will consider the Priority List of Food Additives proposed for evaluation by JECFA and a discussion paper on the revision of the Guidelines for the Evaluation of Food Additive Intakes. The Committee will also consider for endorsement the proposals for food additive provisions in Codex standards put forward by other committees.

2.2. The **Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods** will consider the revision of the maximum levels for lead in selected commodities in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed; the revision of guideline levels for radionuclides in foods; and the elaboration of maximum levels for deoxynivalenol (DON) in cereals and cereal-based products and associated sampling plans; the annex for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxins and ochratoxin A contamination in sorghum (Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cereals); the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of ochratoxin A contamination in cocoa; the maximum levels for hydrocyanic acid in cassava and cassava products and the related Code of practice to reduce the presence of hydrocyanic acid in cassava and cassava products; and the Code of practice for weed control to prevent and reduce pyrrolizidine alkaloid contamination in food and feed. The Committee will consider the priority list of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants proposed for evaluation by JECFA and several discussion papers.

2.3. The **Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues** (CCPR) will discuss new and revised MRLs; it will proceed with the revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds and the revision of the Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues. The Committee will continue work on: principles and guidance for the use of the concept of proportionality to estimate maximum residue limits for pesticides; the review of the commodity groups in the database for maximum residue limits for pesticides to determine the need for revision of relevant group MRLs; guidance to facilitate the establishment of maximum residue limits for pesticides for minor crops/specialty crops. The Committee will consider the 2012 JMPR report, including responses to specific concerns raised by the CCPR in 2012.

---