



20 October 2022

(22-7860)

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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

Original: English

## INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES

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

The following communication, received on 19 October 2022, is being circulated at the request of the Codex secretariat.

#### **1 CODEX MEETINGS HELD SINCE THE LAST SESSION OF THE SPS COMMITTEE (22-24 JUNE 2022)**

##### **1.1 82<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC82, Virtual, 20-30 June 2022)**

###### **1.1.1 Application of the Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science in the Codex Decision-Making Process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account (SoP)**

1.1. CCEXEC continues its efforts to develop practical guidance to support the operationalization of the SoP. Following substantial work in 2022, CCEXEC83 will consider the latest version of the guidance and a related flowchart which aims to provide clarity around some key terms such as 'Other legitimate factors', 'Other considerations' and 'Abstain from acceptance'; a description of the sequence of considerations that a committee or the Commission applies when faced with a proposal to advance or adopt a standard or related text, possible scenarios they might face during this phase and the options available to Chairpersons in different situations

###### **1.1.2 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission**

1.2. The central theme of World Food Safety Day (WFSD) 2023 will be around standards and Codex together with FAO and WHO will hold an event around June 7 to celebrate Codex@60. Another event will take place in conjunction with the Commission in November 2023.

1.3. A special anniversary edition of the CODEX Magazine in 2023 will include articles on, for example, the history of the committees, some of the key standards that Codex has developed over the past 60 years and a look at both Codex past achievements and the future. Given the close relationship with the SPS Sgreement, the Codex Secretariat welcomes input from the SPS Committee on engagement to celebrate Codex@60.

1.4. An update of the design of the Codex Alimentarius texts is ongoing, not only in terms of visual design but the way in which they are cited and referenced to ensure they are fit for purpose and digitally robust for the next 60 years. Discussion and idea sharing on how to mark Codex@60 have been ongoing in recent Coordinating Committee meetings and CCEXEC82 encouraged Members and Observers to fully engage in early planning to identify their own contributions to this event.

###### **1.1.3 New food sources and production systems: need for Codex attention and guidance**

1.5. CCEXE82 considered the issue based on inputs from members and observers, noted the breath of the subject and as a result there would likely be different approaches to addressing such issues in Codex.

1.6. Some Codex texts such as those related to food hygiene and food labelling would already cover a number of issues related to new food, as they currently do for other foods. CCEXEC recognized that ongoing work on this matter in CCEXEC did not preclude committees from undertaking new work falling within their respective mandates. This issue will be further discussed at CCEXEC83 and CAC45 in November 2022.

#### **1.1.4 The Future of Codex**

1.7. Leading up to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and following the experience during the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to be flexible and resilient for the future, Codex is considering what its future should look like both in terms of working modalities and the type of work it undertakes (e.g. new food sources). Following consultations with Members, a blueprint for the future will be prepared for consideration by CAC 46 in 2023.

#### **1.1.5 Monitoring the use and impact of Codex standards**

1.8. The Codex Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO and WHO evaluation offices, are working on a mechanism to measure the use and impact of Codex standards which will progress in three directions:

- A survey on the use of selected Codex texts and their impact to all Codex members to be developed and issued annually;
- Work with the WTO Secretariat to explore a collaborative monitoring and reporting framework in which Codex texts have been highlighted in trade negotiations, SPS and TBT notifications, specific trade concerns, and disputes, but also for disputes that were prevented thanks to Codex texts. The Codex Secretariat approached the SPS Secretary for preliminary talks on potential collaboration. These will continue, also in collaboration with the other standard-setting organizations;
- Tailored case studies to assess the use and impact of specific Codex texts within the context of a member country or observer.

1.9. CCEXEC82 recognized the benefits and challenges in monitoring the use and impact of Codex texts, and the importance of engagement as the process evolved and of periodic review and endorsed the approach for building the Codex monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework, with piloting in 2022 and consideration of preliminary results by CCEXEC83 and CAC45.

1.10. Working documents, including the report, of CCEXEC sessions are available on the Codex website: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/executive-committee/meetings/en/>.

1.11. Additional information on the monitoring the use and impact of Codex standards: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/monitoring/tr/>.

### **1.2 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR53, Virtual, 4-13 July 2022)**

#### **1.2.1 Matters for adoption by CAC**

##### **1.2.1.1 Establishment of MRLs for different combinations of pesticides and commodities**

1.12. CCPR finalized several MRLs for pesticide/commodity combinations (food and feed) for final adoption with the subsequent revocation of associated CXLs (Codex Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides previously adopted by CAC).

##### **1.2.1.2 Development of Guidelines for the recognition of active substances or authorized uses of active substances of low public health concern that are considered exempted from the establishment of maximum residue limits or do not give rise to residues**

1.13. CCPR finalized the Guidelines for final adoption.

1.14. The Guidelines provide a harmonized set of criteria for the establishment of lists of biopesticides. This would enable harmonization of such lists amongst countries to prevent/reduce misalignments of national legislation and to aid trade flow.

### **1.2.1.3 Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed**

1.15. CCPR revised Class D – Processed Food Commodities of Plant Origin to allow the inclusion of additional commodities i.e. certain citrus fruits pulps (dried) and oils (edible) as well as soya flour.

1.16. These additions will allow establishment of MRLs for these commodities.

### **1.2.1.4 Harmonization of descriptors for edible tissues of animal origin (fat, offal and meat/muscle) between the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods for the establishment of harmonized MRLs for compounds with dual use as pesticide and veterinary drug**

1.17. CCPR harmonized the definitions for the previously mentioned tissues, including the description of the portion of the commodity to which the MRL applies and which is analyzed for adoption and inclusion in the Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989).

1.18. These definitions are now the same for CCPR and CCRVDF. This will avoid the establishment of two MRLs for the same combination compound/commodity to facilitate enforcement and fair practices in trade while protecting human health.

### **1.2.1.5 Revocation of the Guidelines on the Use of Mass Spectrometry for the Identification, Confirmation and Quantitative Determination of Residues (CXG 56-2005)**

1.19. CCPR recommended revocation of the *Guidelines on the use of mass spectrometry for the identification, confirmation and quantitative determination of pesticide residues* (CXG 56-2005) by CAC.

1.20. The *Guidelines on Performance Criteria of Pesticide Residues in Food and Feed* (CXG 90-2017) is a more updated document and sufficiently covers MAS. Any necessary update on this or other analytical techniques can be considered in future based on new development in science and technology.

## **1.2.2 Matters for information to CAC**

### **1.2.2.1 Mitigation of trade impacts associated with the use of environmental inhibitors in agriculture**

1.21. CCPR agreed to consider environmental inhibitors on an ad hoc basis within its mandate and established procedures.

1.22. This decision is in line with Goal 1 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 – To address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner and the relevant SDGs indicated in the Strategic Plan and the recommendation of CCEXEC82 related to its step wise work on new food sources and production systems.

### **1.2.2.2 Enhancement of work management of CCPR and JMPR**

1.23. CCPR completed guidance for engagement of JMPR in parallel reviews of new compounds between JMPR and national registration agencies in the context of global reviews of new compounds.

1.24. This document is part of the ongoing efforts to improve work management of CCPR and JMPR for increased establishment of MRLs for pesticides. The guidance is expected to speed up the process of establishment MRLs and to facilitate their harmonization at an early stage of their development and uptake by Codex members.

1.25. Other ongoing undertakings in CCPR to enhance work management of CCPR and JMPR for the establishment of MRLs for pesticides can be found in the report of the last session of CCPR.

1.26. Working documents, including the report, of CCPR sessions are available on the Codex website: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/related-meetings/en/?committee=CCPR>.

## **2 FORTHCOMING CODEX MEETINGS OF SPS RELEVANCE (AS OF SEPTEMBER 2022. SEE THE CODEX WEBSITE FOR THE FULL MEETING CALENDAR)**

### **2.1 CCEXEC and CAC**

- 83<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC83, Virtual, 14-18 November 2022)
- 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC45, Rome, Italy, 21 November – 13 December 2022 (remote participation will also be possible))

### **2.2 International committee meetings**

- 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH53, San Diego, United States of America, 29 November – 2 December 2022)
- 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF26, Portland, Oregon, United States of America, 13–17 February 2023)

### **2.3 Regional committee meetings**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA22, Virtual, 12-18 October 2022)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC22, Virtual, 24–28 October 2022)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific (CCNASWP16, 30 January – 3 February 2023)

*CCASIA, CCLAC and CCNASWP will discuss issues related to the use of Codex standards in the region and other issues important to the region in all Codex committees which may include also SPS related matters.*

2.1. Regular updates on the status of work of these Committees are published on their dedicated webpages: [CCASIA22](#), [CCLAC22](#), [CCEXEC83](#), [CAC45](#) and [CCFH53](#).

2.2. For specific questions on the status of work in Codex committees of interest to SPS delegates please check the dedicated webpages or send an email to [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org).

## **3 GENERAL**

3.1. The Codex secretariat in collaboration with Host Country Secretariats are continuing to convene working group meetings and webinars in advance of Codex subsidiary sessions to support delegations' preparations and facilitate discussions and consensus-building. Further information is available on the Committee webpages and the [Codex calendar](#).

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