

**INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES**

Communication from the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)

The following communication, received on 26 March 2012, is being circulated at the request of the Codex secretariat.

**I. CODEX SESSIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE (19 – 20 OCTOBER 2011)**

**1. Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (Cairns, Australia, 17-21 October 2011)**

1. The Committee proceeded with its work on the development of Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems and moved the Principles to the Commission for preliminary adoption; and continued discussion on future work on: the burden of multiple questionnaires directed at exporting countries, monitoring regulatory performance of national food control systems, and the need for further guidance on food safety emergencies and on the analysis of proposed change to CCFICS texts on emergencies and rejections to address animal feed.

Full report: [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports\\_2011/REP12\\_FCe.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports_2011/REP12_FCe.pdf)

**2. Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (Bad Soden am Taunus, Germany, 14-18 November 2011);**

2. The Committee moved for adoption some Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs) and to preliminary adoption the Revision of the Guidelines on Formulated Supplementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children (CAC/GL 8-1991). The Committee continued work on the General Principles for Establishing Nutrient Reference Values for Nutrients Associated with Risk of Diet-Related Non-communicable Diseases for General Population (NRVs-NCD), Additional or Revised Nutrient Reference Values for Labelling Purposes in the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling, to revise the Codex General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (CAC/GL 9-1987) and to amend the Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children (CODEX STAN 74-1981) to Include a New Part B for Underweight Children. The Committee will consider the revision of the Standard for Follow-up Formula (CODEX STAN 156-1987) at its next session.

Full report: [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports\\_2011/REP12\\_NFe.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports_2011/REP12_NFe.pdf)

**3. Committee on Food Hygiene (Miami, United States of America, 5-9 December 2011)**

3. The Committee moved for adoption the Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food, and the Annex on Melons to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CAC/RCP 53-2003). The Committee agreed to propose to the Commission new work on a revision of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Dried Aromatic Plants (CAC/RCP 42-1995); and on a new annex on berries to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CAC/RCP 53-2003). The Committee will continue work on the Revision of the Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods and the Guidelines for Control of Specific Zoonotic Parasites in Meat: *Trichinella spiralis* and *Cysticercus bovis*. The Committee requested comments and proposals on the hygiene provisions in the draft Code of Practice for Street-vended Foods (Near East) and further consideration at its next Session with the view to provide guidance to the Coordinating Committee for Near East (CCNEA).

Full report: [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports\\_2011/REP12\\_FHe.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports_2011/REP12_FHe.pdf)

**4. Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (7-10 February 2012)**

4. The Executive Committee considered the critical review and monitoring of standards development; completed several sections of the new draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and agreed to proceed with its further development for consideration at its next session; gave advice on the requests for observer status of several non-governmental international organizations; and considered matters referred by FAO and WHO, including the updated report of the FAO/WHO Project and Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex.

Full report: [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports\\_2012/REP12\\_EXEC1e.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports_2012/REP12_EXEC1e.pdf)

**5. Task Force on Animal Feeding (Bern, Switzerland, 20-24 February 2012)**

5. The Task Force moved for preliminary adoption the Guidelines on Application of Risk Assessment for Feed, how to apply the existing Codex risk assessment methodologies to the various types of hazards related to contaminants/residues in feed ingredients, including feed additives and will continue working on Guidance for use by governments in prioritizing national feed hazards, with a focus on the criteria for prioritization of hazards in feed and guidance for governments on how to use these criteria.

Full report: [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports\\_2012/REP12\\_AFe.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports_2012/REP12_AFe.pdf)

**6. Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (Budapest, Hungary, 5 – 9 March 2012)**

6. The Committee endorsed a large number of methods of analysis and sampling in several standards, made substantial progress on the development of the Principles for the Use of Sampling and Testing in International Food Trade, and developed criteria for the use of proprietary methods in Codex standards.

Full report: [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports\\_2012/REP12\\_MAc.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports_2012/REP12_MAc.pdf)

**7. Committee on Food Additives (Hangzhou, China, 12 – 16 March 2012)**

7. The Committee moved for adoption Food additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA), the revision of the Standard for Food Grade Salt (CODEX STAN 150-1985), amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives, and Specifications for the

Identity and Purity of Food Additives. The Committee also moved for adoption the Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and a revision of the names and descriptors of food category 16.0 and 12.6.1 of the GSFA.

Full report: [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports\\_2012/REP12\\_FAE.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/REPORTS/Reports_2012/REP12_FAE.pdf)

## **II. FORTHCOMING CODEX MEETINGS**

### **1. Committee on Contaminants in Foods (Maastricht, Netherlands, 26 – 30 March 2012)**

8. The Committee will consider Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods as to their separation from the Codex Committee on Food Additives and their applicability to feed, and Revision of the Code of Practice for Source Directed Measures to Reduce Contamination of Food with Chemicals as to their applicability to feed. The Committee will consider, at various steps of the procedure, Maximum Levels for Melamine in Food (liquid infant formula); Maximum Levels for Arsenic in Rice; Maximum Levels for Deoxynivalenol (DON) in Cereals and Cereal-based Products and Associated Sampling Plans; and Maximum Levels for Total Aflatoxins in Dried Figs including Sampling Plans. The Committee will also consider discussion papers on Management Practices for the Prevention and Reduction of Contamination of Food and Feed with Pyrrolizidine Alkaloids (PAs); Maximum levels for lead in various foods in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed and the related Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Foods and the Code of Practice for Source Directed Measures to Reduce Contamination of Foods with Chemicals; Mycotoxins in Sorghum; Ochratoxin A in Cocoa and Guidance for Risk Management Options in light of different risk assessment options, and Maximum Levels for Fumonisin in Maize and Maize-Products and Associated Sampling Plans (currently held waiting for JECFA advice).

### **2. Committee on General Principles (Paris, France, 2 – 6 April 2012)**

9. The Committee will discuss issues related to Standards held at Step 8, a mechanism for examining economic impact statements; a review of the Risk Analysis Policies of Codex Committees; a proposed amendment to the terms of reference of the Committee; the development of Joint Codex/OIE Standards; and the distribution of documents and length and content of reports.

### **3. Committee on Pesticide Residues (Shanghai, China, 23 – 28 April 2012)**

10. The Committee will discuss MRLs for pesticides for final or preliminary adoption; revisions of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds and the Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues. The Committee will continue work on: a Pilot Project for JMPR Recommendation of MRLs before National Governments or Other Regional Registration Authorities for a Global Joint Review Chemical; Principles and Guidance for the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides for Commodity Groups (including Table 1) on fruit commodities. The Committee will consider a Discussion Paper on the Guidance to facilitate the establishment of Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides for Minor Crops and Specialty Crops.

### **4. Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (San Juan, Puerto Rico, 7 – 11 May 2012)**

11. The Committee will proceed with its work on Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Veterinary Drugs, i.e. amoxicillin (in cattle, sheep and pig tissues); apramycin (cattle and chicken kidneys); derquantel (in sheep tissues); monensin (in cattle liver); monepantel (in sheep tissues); and narasin (in cattle tissues), based on the recommendations of the 75th meeting of the Joint

FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Food Additives (JECFA), (Rome, 8-17 November 2011). The Committee will consider: revisions to its Risk Analysis Principles and Risk Assessment Policy for MRLs setting; amendments and/or addition to the priority list of veterinary drugs requiring JECFA evaluation or re-evaluation; a database on the need of developing countries for MRLs for veterinary drugs; and risk management recommendations for veterinary drugs for which no ADI and MRLs have been recommended by JECFA due to specific health concerns. The Committee will also consider methods of analysis and sampling, in particular sampling plans for residues control for aquatic animal, and guidelines on performance characteristics for multi residues analysis.

12. Discussion papers on the policy for the establishment of MRLs of other limits in honey, and on the extrapolation of MRLs to additional species and tissues, and a document prepared by the CCRVDF Chairperson on new issues not covered by the work of the Committee, will also be presented along with a report on OIE activities, including the Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products, relevant to the work of the Committee.

#### **5. Committee on Food Labelling (Ottawa, Canada, 15 – 18 May 2012)**

13. The Committee will proceed with the consideration of issues related to the implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health: revision of the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims: additional conditions for nutrient content claims; and comparative claims; and the definition of Nutrient Reference Values. It will proceed with the development of a section on organic aquaculture and other amendments to the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods.

#### **6. Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Rome, Italy, 26 – 29 June 2012)**

#### **7. Codex Alimentarius Commission (Rome, Italy, 2 – 7 July 2012)**

### **III. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **1. IPPC**

14. The Codex Secretariat participated in the IPPC Focus Group on Improving the IPPC Standard Setting Process (FG) 25-29 July 2011 in Paris together with OIE and ISO and shared experience on various aspects of the standard setting process in Codex which was particularly relevant in view of regular discussions in the SPS Committee on the relationship between the three organisations, co-operation, and as issues related to procedures and risk analysis are part of these consultations. As Codex and IPPC secretariats are both located in the same department in FAO, there are regular consultations as part of the AG department and for common standard-setting issues.

#### **2. OIE**

15. The Codex Secretariat attended the November meeting of the OIE Animal Production Food safety Working Group (APFSWG) and the meeting of ad hoc groups on antimicrobial resistance (December 2011) and on parasitosis (August 2011). OIE representatives participated at relevant Codex meetings.

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