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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 14 October 2021, is being circulated at the request of the Codex secretariat.

NOTE: All Codex meetings in 2021 are being held virtually.

1 CODEX MEETINGS HELD SINCE THE LAST SESSION OF THE SPS COMMITTEE (14-16 JULY 2021)

1.1 25th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVD25, 12-19 July 2021)

1.1.1 MRLs for Veterinary Drugs in Foods

1.1. MRLs for flumethrin (honey), diflubenzuron (salmon - muscle plus skin in natural proportion) and halquinol (swine - muscle, skin plus fat, liver and kidney) were forwarded to the 44th session of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC44) for final adoption. MRLs for ivermectin (sheep, goats, pigs - fat, kidney, liver and muscle) were forwarded to CAC44 for preliminary adoption.

1.1.2 MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride (cattle fat, kidney, liver, muscle)

1.2. CCRVD25 was unable to reach consensus on either advancing the MRLs for adoption or to retain them. The Chairperson further noted that all efforts had been exhausted in CCRVD25 to reach consensus and the Chairperson observed that CCRVD25 had reiterated the views that there are no public health concerns regarding the proposed MRLs and supported the JECFA scientific evaluations while recognizing that some members disagreed. The Chairperson requested CCEXEC81 (2021) to provide a recommendation on the way forward in the framework of the critical review and to inform a CAC decision on the path forward for the MRLs in the Codex step process.

1.1.3 Extrapolation of maximum residue limits to one or more species

1.3. CCRVD25 agreed to forward the approach for extrapolation of MRLs for veterinary drugs to one or more species and amendment to the procedural manual on the *Risk Analysis Principle Applied by CCRVD25* to CAC44 for adoption.

1.4. The report of CCRVD25 is available on the Codex [webpage](#).

1.2 52nd Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR52, 26-31 July 2021)

1.3 MRLs for different combinations of pesticides and commodities

1.5. CCPR52 agreed to forward to CAC44, MRLs for different combinations of pesticides and commodities for final adoption, and CXLs (Codex Maximum Residue Limit for Pesticide) for

revocation. CCPR52 also forwarded the revision of the Classification of Food and Feed to CAC44 for final adoption.

1.4 Guidelines for compounds of low public health concerns that may be exempted from the establishment of CXLs or do not give rise to residues

1.6. CCPR52 agreed to advance the Guidelines for preliminary adoption by CAC44.

1.7. The report of CCPR52 is available on the Codex [webpage](#).

1.5 52nd session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA52, 1-10 September 2021)

1.5.1 Food additive provisions in the General Standard for Food Additives and commodity standards

1.8. CCFA52 forwarded its work on Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives; food-additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA); revision of the Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives for final adoption. With respect to alignment of food additive provisions, CCFA52 agreed to forward the revised food additives section of several commodity standards and GSFA to CAC44 for adoption.

1.9. CCFA52 agreed to include xanthan gum (INS 415) and pectins (INS 440) in FC 13.1.3 "Formulae for special medical purposes for infants", and forward the revised provisions for sweeteners in different food categories in GSFA to CAC44 for adoption.

1.5.2 Guideline on avoiding future divergence of food additive provisions in the GSFA with Commodity Standards

1.10. CCFA52 agreed to publish on the Codex website the document titled "Guideline on avoiding future divergence of food additive provisions in the GSFA with Commodity Standards" as an information document and inform the corresponding Commodity Committees of this document.

1.11. The report of CCFA52 is available on the Codex [webpage](#).

1.6 46th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL46, 27 September-7 October 2021)

1.6.1 Guidance for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers

1.12. CCFL46 concluded its work on the Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers of Foods and forwarded to CAC44 for final adoption.

1.6.2 Guidelines on Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling

1.13. CCFL46 concluded its work on Guidelines on Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling and forwarded to CAC44 for final adoption and inclusion as an Annex to the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CXG2-195).

1.14. The report of CCFL46 will be made available on the Codex [webpage](#) (at the time of submission of this document only the draft report was available on the CCFL46 page).

1.7 8th Session of the Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR8, 4-16 October 2021)

1.7.1 Revision of the Code of practice to minimize and contain foodborne AMR

1.15. TFAMR8 concluded its work on the revision of the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (CXC 61-2005) and forwarded to CAC44 for final adoption.

1.7.2 Guidelines on integrated monitoring and surveillance of foodborne antimicrobial resistance

1.16. TFAMR8 concluded its work on the Proposed Draft Guidelines on Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance and was forwarded to CAC44 for final adoption.

1.17. The draft report of TFAMR8 will be made available on the Codex [webpage](#) (at the time of submission of this document only the draft report was available on the TFAMR8 page).

2 OTHER CODEX EVENTS

2.1. Several virtual working group meetings and webinars in support of upcoming sessions of Codex subsidiary bodies were held to support delegations' preparations and facilitate discussions and consensus-building:

- Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) Working Group on Priority List of Veterinary Drugs for Evaluation / Re-Evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), 6 July 2021;
- Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) Working Groups on Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed, Review of the IESTI Equations, and Compounds of low public health concerns that may be exempted from the establishment of CXLs or do not give rise to residues, 22–23 July 2021;
- Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) Working Group on Front of Pack Nutrition Labelling (FOPNL), 21–22 September 2021.

3 FORTHCOMING CODEX MEETINGS

- [81st Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission](#) (28 October-5 November 2021);
- [44th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission](#) (8–18 November 2021);
- [42nd Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses](#) (19 November-1 December 2021).

3.1. Regular updates on the status of work of these Committees are published on their dedicated webpages on the [Codex website](#). 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.

3.2. The Codex secretariat in collaboration with host secretariats and working group leads 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](#).
