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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CODEX)

The following communication, received on 27 June 2014, is being circulated at the request of the Codex secretariat.

1 CODEX SESSIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE (MARCH 2014)

- 8th Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (The Hague, the Netherlands, 31 March – 4 April)
- 28th Codex Committee on General Principles (Paris, France, 7-11 April 2014)
- 46th Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (Nanjing, China, 5-10 May 2014)

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

1.1. The **Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods** finalized work on maximum levels for lead in infant formula and formula for special medical purposes intended for infants and follow-up formula (as consumed); maximum level for inorganic arsenic in polished rice; and maximum levels for fumonisins in maize and maize products and sampling plans. The Committee also finalized work on codes of practice for the prevention and reduction of certain mycotoxin contamination in sorghum and for the prevention and reduction of weed contamination with pyrrolizidine alkaloid in food and feed. The Committee continues work on the revision of maximum levels for lead in various commodities in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed; elaboration of a maximum level for inorganic arsenic in husked rice; elaboration of maximum levels and sampling plans for deoxynivalenol (DON) in cereals and cereals-based products; and the priority list of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants for evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). The next session of the Committee will consider maximum levels for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts including sampling plans; maximum levels for cadmium in chocolate and cocoa-derived products; and codes of practice for the prevention and reduction of arsenic contamination in rice and for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cereals (revision). The next session of the Committee will also consider a number of discussion papers on various issues related to industrial and environmental contaminants (e.g. methylmercury in fish, radionuclides in food following a radiological or nuclear emergency) and mycotoxins (e.g. mycotoxins in spices) including guidance papers on submission and use of data from GEMS/Food and the phasing-in of lower maximum levels.

Full report: http://www.codexalimentarius.org/download/report/906/REP14_CFe.pdf

1.2. The **Codex Committee on General Principles** endorsed several amendments to the Procedural Manual originating from Codex Committees, in particular amendments to the definitions of *Hazard Characterization and Risk Estimate* and the inclusion of provisions on Extrapolation of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of Veterinary Drugs to Additional Species and the Use of the Concern Form for the CCRVDF in the *Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the CCRVDF and the Risk Assessment Policy in the Setting of Maximum Limits for Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods*. The Committee developed guidance to promote collaboration between Codex and OIE that can be utilised to foster on-going collaboration between the two organizations and their members at the national and regional level (the guidance will be considered by the 37th Session of the Commission in July 2014).

Full report: http://www.codexalimentarius.org/download/report/798/REP14_GPe.pdf

1.3. The **Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues** finalized a number of new and revised maximum residue limits for pesticides and the revision of the Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Committee. The Committee continues work on the revision of the Classification of Food and Feed and examples of selection of representative commodities (vegetable commodity groups); guidance on performance criteria for methods of analysis for the determination of pesticide residues; guidance to facilitate the establishment of maximum residue limits for pesticides for minor crops / specialty crops; and the priority list and schedules of pesticides for evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticides (JMPR).

Full report: http://www.codexalimentarius.org/download/report/917/REP14_PRe.pdf

2 FORTHCOMING CODEX MEETINGS

- 69th Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, Switzerland, 8-11 July 2014). For the agenda see http://www.codexalimentarius.org/download/report/916/ex69_01e.pdf
- 37th Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, Switzerland, 14-18 July 2014). For the agenda see http://www.codexalimentarius.org/download/report/807/cac37_01e.pdf
- 27th Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (TBA, The United States of America, 8-12 September)
- 13th FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific (Kokopo, Papua New Guinea, 23-26 September 2014). For the agenda see http://www.codexalimentarius.org/download/report/914/na14_01e.pdf
- 29th FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (TBA, The Netherlands, 30 September - 3 October 2014). For the agenda see http://www.codexalimentarius.org/download/report/913/eu29_01e.pdf

2.1. The six **FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees** will meet from September 2014 to March 2015. The FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees consider Codex matters of interest to the region, including information within the region on food legislation and food control systems, Codex structures and use of Codex standards. The Coordinating Committees will also discuss problems and needs of the region concerning food standards and food control; regional standards for products that may not be traded internationally but for which there is significant regional trade; and proposals for strengthening Coordinating Committees' roles and platforms.

2.2. 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.
