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Page: 1/2

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 15 October 2019, is being circulated at the request of the Codex secretariat.

1 CODEX SESSIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE (JUNE 2019)

- 77th Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, Switzerland, 1-5 July 2019)
- 42nd Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, Switzerland, 8-12 July 2019)
- 23rd FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (Nairobi, Kenya, 2-6 September 2019)
- 15th FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific (Port Vila, Vanuatu, 16 - 20 September 2019)
- 21st FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (Goa, India, 23-27 September 2019)
- 31st FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 30 September - 4 October 2019)

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

1.1. The **Codex Alimentarius Commission** adopted a number of standards and other texts, including maximum residue limits (MRLs) for 32 different pesticides in various foods and feeds; 154 food additive provisions in the *General Standard for Food Additives* (CXS 192-1995), revised food-additive sections of a number of Codex commodity standards, revisions to the *Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives and the Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives* (CXS36-1989); revision of the existing maximum levels (MLs) for lead in selected commodities in the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (CXS 193-1995), the *Code of practice for the reduction of 3-MCPDEs and GEs in refined oils and food products made with refined oils*; *Guidelines for rapid risk analysis following instances of detection of contaminants in food where there is no regulatory level*; a *Standard for dried or dehydrated garlic*; and provisions for almond, flaxseed, hazelnut, pistachio, and walnut oils, as well as palm oil with a higher content of Oleic acid (OXG) in the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CXS 210-1999).

Full Report: http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-701-42%252FReport%252FREP19_CACe_Final.pdf

2 FORTHCOMING CODEX MEETINGS

- 51st Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (Cleveland, Ohio, United States of America, 4-8 November 2019)
- 10th FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East (Rome, Italy, 11-15 November 2019)
- 41st Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (Dusseldorf, Germany, 24-29 November 2019)
- 7th Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 9-13 December 2019)

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

2.1. The **Codex Committee on Food Hygiene** will proceed with its work on the revision of the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* and its HACCP Annex (CXC 1-1969). The Committee will also continue to work on the draft code of practice on food allergen management for food business operators, guidance for the management of biological foodborne outbreaks and guidelines for the control of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in beef, raw milk and cheese produced from raw milk, leafy greens, and sprouts.

For the agenda see http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-712-51%252Ffh51_01e.pdf.

2.2. The **Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance** will discuss the revision of the *Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance* (CXC 61-2005) and will also discuss the development of the Guidelines on integrated surveillance of antimicrobial resistance.

For the agenda see http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-804-07%252FINV-PA%252Famr07_01e.pdf.

2.3. **Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025**. CAC42 adopted the new Codex Strategic Plan for the next six years. Building on the previous strategic plan, this one includes an additional goal to *Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards*. This aims to increase activities to create awareness of Codex standards, increase their use and develop a mechanism to measure the impact of their use. An implementation work plan is currently under development and there will be outreach to both members and Observers requesting input to the work plan before CAC43. The Codex Secretariat also welcomes direct feedback from members and Observers on their experiences with using Codex standards to inform case studies in this area.

2.4. **Statements of Principles** concerning the role of Science in the Codex Decision-making Process and the Extent to Which Other Factors are Taken into Account. The mission of Codex is to *protect consumer health and promote fair practices in the food trade by setting international science-based food safety and quality standards*.¹ The Codex Secretariat recently developed a paper on the history and implications of the Statements of Principle², following concerns of some members regarding their application. To address these concerns, work is now underway to develop guidance on the operationalization of these standards.

¹ From the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2024 available here:
<http://www.fao.org/3/ca5645en/CA5645EN.pdf>.

² Paper available here: http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-702-77%252Fex77_10e.pdf.