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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 3 March 2020, is being circulated at the request of the Codex secretariat.

1 CODEX SESSIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OCTOBER 2019

- 21st Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico, 7 - 11 October 2019)
- 21st FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, Chile, 21 - 25 October 2019)¹
- 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 (Duesseldorf, Germany, 24 - 29 November 2019)
- 7th Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 9 - 13 December 2019)
- 78th Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (10 - 14 February 2020)
- 29th Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (Working by correspondence)

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

1.1. The **Codex Committee on Food Hygiene** concluded its works on the draft *Code of Practice on Food Allergen Management for Food Business Operators* and proposed a draft revision of the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969) and agreed to forward them to the 43rd Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC43) for adoption. The Committee also agreed to forward the proposed draft *Guidance for the Management of Biological Foodborne Outbreaks* to CAC43 in the step process. In addition, the committee agreed to start new work on *Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production*.

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-712-51%252FReport%252FREP20_FHe.pdf

1.2. The **Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance** agreed to forward the proposed draft revision of the *Code of Practice to Contain and Minimize Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance* (CXC 61-2005) to CAC43 for adoption in the step process.

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-804-07%252FREPORT%252FReport%252FREP20_AMRe.pdf

¹ The meeting was discontinued due to security reason in Santiago, Chile. The discussion was continued by correspondence to complete the agenda items.

2 FORTHCOMING CODEX MEETINGS

- 32nd Codex Committee on General Principles (Bordeaux, France, 23 – 27 March 2020)
- 14th Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (Utrecht, Netherlands, 20 – 24 April 2020)
- 25th Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 27 April – 1 May 2020)
- 41st Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (Budapest, Hungary, 11 - 15 May 2020)
- 25th Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (San Diego, United States of America, 25 – 29 May 2020)
- 52nd Codex Committee on Food Additives (Lanzhou, China, 22-26 June 2020)
- 29th Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (Working by correspondence)

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

2.1. The **Codex Committee on General Principles** will consider procedural guidance for committees working by correspondence and discuss monitoring of the use of Codex standards.

2.2. The **Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods** will continue to work on establishment of Maximum Levels (MLs) for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plans, MLs for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin in nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric and associated sampling plans, and MLs for chocolate and chocolate products containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis and cocoa powder (100% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis). The Committee will also start its work on establishment of MLs for aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products, including food for infants and young children, establishment of MLs for lead in certain food categories, revision of the *Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods* (CXC 56-2004), and development of a code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans.

2.3. The **Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems** will continue work on guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS), guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates, and principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes. The Committee will start new work on the consolidation of Codex Guidelines related to equivalence. Further, the Committee will discuss matters regarding tackling food fraud in the context of food safety and fair practices in food trade.

2.4. The **Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods** will continue discussion on Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for zilpaterol hydrochloride (cattle fat, kidney, liver, muscle) and priority list of veterinary drugs requiring approval by CAC. The Committee will also discuss matters regarding extrapolation of MRLs to one or more species and coordination with the CCPR/EWG on the revision of the *Classification of Food and Feed* (CXM 4-1987) for the development of a harmonized definition for edible offal/animal tissues for the establishment of MRLs.

2.5. The **Codex Committee on Food Additives** will proceed with its work on food additive provisions of the *General Standard for Food Additives* (GSFA). The Committee will examine other issues related to the GSFA including: (i) the results of the 87th meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) as well as the specifications for the identity and purity of food additives with a view to their adoption as Codex specifications; and (ii) the relevant provisions for sweeteners associated with Note 161. The Committee will also consider the priority list of food additives proposed for evaluation by JECFA, revision to the *International Numbering System (INS) for Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989), and the endorsement of the proposals for food additive provisions in Codex standards.

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-711-52%252FWorking%2Bdocuments%252Ffa52_01e.pdf