

**REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATE
ON THE 17th SESSION OF THE
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS**

April 15-19, 2024
Panama City, Panama

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY

The 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF17) convened April 15-19, 2024 in Panama City, Panama. The session was chaired by the Netherlands and was attended by 54 Member Countries, one Member Organization (the European Union), and 7 observer organizations. The U.S. Delegation was led by Dr. Lauren Posnick Robin (Head of Delegation) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, and Mr. Alexander Domesle (Alternate Delegate) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service. The U.S. Delegation also included four government advisors and two non-governmental advisors.

CCCF17 was a productive session and completed work on maximum levels (MLs) for lead, a sampling plan for methylmercury in fish, and a Code of Practice (CoP) for the prevention or reduction of ciguatera poisoning, which were recommended for final adoption by the 47th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC47, 2024), consistent with U.S. positions and comments.

This report summarizes significant agenda items and issues discussed at CCCF17. The full official report of the session along with all documents considered at the meeting are available on the Codex website at: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCCF&session=17>.

HIGHLIGHTS

Texts for adoption at CAC47 (2024)

The Committee sent the following draft CoP to CAC47 (2024) for adoption at Step 5/8 (final adoption):

- Draft CoP for the prevention or reduction of ciguatera poisoning

The Committee sent the following draft MLs to CAC47 (2024) for adoption at Step 8 or Step 5/8 (final adoption):

- Draft ML for lead in spice, dried aril
- Draft ML for lead in spice, dried seeds (excluding celery seeds)
- Draft ML for lead in spice, dried celery seeds
- Draft ML for lead in spice, dried rhizomes and roots
- Draft ML for lead in spice, dried floral parts
- Draft ML for lead in spice, dried fruits and berries
- Draft ML for lead in spice, dried paprika and sumac
- Draft ML for lead in spice, dried Sichuan pepper and star anise

The Committee sent the following sampling plan to CAC47 (2024) for adoption at Step 5/8 (final adoption):

- Sampling plan for methylmercury contamination in fish

The Committee sent the following draft ML to CAC47 (2024) for adoption at Step 5 (interim adoption):

- Draft MLs for lead in spices, dried bark
- Draft ML for lead in dried culinary herbs

The Committee sent the following sampling plan to CAC47 (2024) for adoption at Step 5 (interim adoption):

- Sampling plans for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in certain spices

NEXT SESSION OF CCCF

The 18th Session of CCCF (CCCF18) is tentatively scheduled for June 23-27, 2025; the final arrangements are subject to confirmation by the Host Country (the Netherlands) and the Codex Secretariat.

MEETING SUMMARY

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND/OR ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? Yes

United States Objective

The United States' objective was to respond proactively to matters referred from the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS), and the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR), including the matter for information regarding Circular Letter (CL) 2024/20-CAC requesting comments on a proposal for Codex to develop guidance on food safety considerations related to the use of recycled material in food packaging.

Outcome/Conclusion

Regarding CL 2024/20-CAC, the United States intervened to support the proposed guidance and suggested that a joint working group (WG) between CCCF and the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) would be a possible approach to carry out the work. Canada supported the suggestion by the United States. The Codex Secretariat invited Members and Observers to submit any relevant information and proposals in reply to CL 2024/20-CAC for consideration by CAC47.

Regarding requests from CCMAS, Brazil volunteered to review performance criteria for aflatoxins in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CXS 193-1995). CCCF17 agreed that more time would be needed to reflect on options to respond to an additional request from CCMAS to review all sampling plans for alignment with the newly revised General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2004).

MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO INCLUDING JECFA

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No

United States Objective

This item is for information only.

Outcome/Conclusion

The FAO and WHO representatives and the JECFA Secretariat provided updates on the upcoming JECFA evaluations on dioxin and arsenic and ongoing work on food safety implications from use of environmental inhibitors in agrifood, circular economy,

water and food safety nexus (chemical focus), and collaboration with the World Food Program. The WHO representative provided an update on ongoing work at WHO on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including three work packages: (1) a landscape review on the health effects of PFAS, (2) methodology development for an in-depth assessment of human health risk from PFAS exposure via ingestion, looking at individual and combined substances and key health effects, and (3) preparation of guidance to ensure that the work package activities align with best practices for evidence. The representative also stated that WHO will have an expert meeting to consider whether a toxic equivalency factor approach is needed for PFAS. A JECFA evaluation of PFAS is anticipated in 2027.

MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR LEAD IN CERTAIN FOOD CATEGORIES

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No

United States Objective

The United States' objectives included the following:

- Support adoption of MLs for lead in spices, consistent with scientific principles and CCCF data analysis guidelines.
- Discontinue work on spices, dried flowers (chamomile herbs).
- For cinnamon (dried bark spices), support a lower ML than 2.5 mg/kg, given that cinnamon is used heavily in children's foods, including through use at home.
- For spice mixtures, ensure that CCCF consider future work on spice mixtures.

Outcome/Conclusion

Brazil, as Chair of the EWG, introduced the item, summarized discussions in the EWG and a virtual working group (VWG) held prior to CCCF17, and presented ML proposals.

There were several general comments on spice MLs. India preferred to discontinue work in a number of categories, stating that there were not sufficient geographically representative data and that the product categories were based on a template that was still in development in the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs. Brazil responded that there had been three calls for data on lead in spices and that adopted MLs could be reexamined if new data were available. Singapore preferred to set the same ML for all spices.

On bark spices (cinnamon), the Committee considered MLs ranging from 2.0 mg/kg to 3.5 mg/kg. The United States intervened to state that an ML of 2.0 mg/kg was feasible based on industry data and would be more appropriate than higher MLs, as cinnamon is present in many products destined for children, particularly in pre-packaged foods and in homemade meals, and that children were especially vulnerable to the negative

effects of lead. Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Egypt supported 2.0 mg/kg as proposed by the United States. Türkiye, Brazil, Chile, and the European Union supported 2.5 mg/kg, but the European Union later noted it could support 2.0 mg/kg as well. Thailand and China supported 2.5 – 3.0 mg/kg. Brazil proposed advancing an ML of 2.5 mg/kg at Step 5 (interim adoption, allowing for another round of review and consideration by CCCF) and to further consider new data in the following year, with a call for data to be issued by JECFA. The United States, Canada, Cuba, India, and Indonesia supported this proposal. The United States suggested that data consistent with economic adulteration should not be included in the new analysis, which Canada supported. The Chair suggested that this could be addressed in the call for data. The United States said that removal of data consistent with economic adulteration could be addressed by the EWG and volunteered to support the EWG in identifying outliers.

The Committee agreed to forward for final adoption at Step 5/8 the following MLs for lead in dried spices and culinary herbs: 0.9 mg/kg for spices, dried aril; 2.5 mg/kg for spices, dried floral parts; 0.6 mg/kg for spices, dried fruit and berries, excluding dried Sichuan pepper, star anise, dried paprika and sumac; 0.8 mg/kg for spices, dried paprika and sumac; 3.0 mg/kg for spices, dried Sichuan pepper and star anise; 2.0 mg/kg for spices, dried rhizomes and roots; 0.9 mg/kg for spices, dried seeds, excluding dried celery seeds; and 1.5 mg/kg for dried celery seeds. The Committee agreed to forward for interim adoption at Step 5 the following draft MLs: 2.5 mg/kg for lead in spices, dried bark (cinnamon), and 2.5 mg/kg for lead in dried culinary herbs.

Some member countries objected to specific MLs adopted at 5/8 as being too high: dried rhizomes and roots (European Union, Egypt, Indonesia); dried floral parts (European Union, Egypt, Türkiye); and dried celery seeds, dried fruits and berries, and star anise (European Union).

CCCF17 agreed to discontinue work on MLs for spices, dried flowers (chamomile flowers), due to chamomile primarily being used for herbal infusions, and on MLs for fresh culinary herbs, due to a previous decision to discontinue work on fresh herbs if no resolution was reached at CCCF17.

Singapore and the United States raised the question of whether spice mixtures could be considered in future work of CCCF. Some members, including the European Union, stated that determination of ML compliance for mixtures could be based on reported ingredients and there was discussion of potentially adding new language to the *General Standard on Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (CSX 193-1995) on this point. Japan thought that such language was not necessary as the general approach is captured already in CXS 193-1995. The United States requested that JECFA analyze data in GEMS/Food on spice mixtures for CCCF18 to better understand the profile of lead in mixtures and to avoid risks from economic adulteration. Thailand and Singapore also supported work on spice mixtures. CCCF agreed to request the JECFA secretariat to issue a call for data on lead in spice mixtures and to present an analysis for discussion at CCCF18. CCCF17 also agreed to request the Codex Secretariat to issue a Circular Letter requesting comments on the necessity and content of further guidance for multi-ingredient products.

The Committee agreed to re-establish an EWG, chaired by Brazil, to continue work on MLs for lead in spices, dried bark, and dried culinary herbs.

SAMPLING PLANS FOR METHYLMERCURY IN FISH

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No

United States Objective

The United States' objective was for CCCF to forward a sampling plan to CAC for interim adoption at Step 5 or final adoption at Step 5/8.

Outcome/Conclusion

After making editorial corrections and agreeing on a definition for the decision rule, CCCF17 agreed to forward the sampling plan to CAC47 for final adoption at Step 5/8.

DEFINITION FOR READY-TO-EAT PEANUTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MAXIMUM LEVEL FOR TOTAL AFLATOXINS IN THIS PRODUCT

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No

United States Objective

The United States' objectives were to: (1) align the proposed ready-to-eat (RTE) peanut definition with the definition for RTE tree nuts in CXS-193-1995, (2) support a call for aflatoxin (AFT) occurrence data in RTE peanuts, (3) encourage CCCF to

consider whether a note on roasting as a practice that reduces aflatoxin will apply to the proposed definition for RTE peanuts, and (4) remind CCCF that ongoing work should follow the conclusions of CCCF15 (2022), i.e., that consideration of MLs should include an analysis year-by-year and region-by-region before and after the adoption of the *Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in peanuts* (CXC 55-2004), an analysis by geographic region, a summary and justification on inclusion or exclusion of data and challenges in data review, and a clear presentation of anticipated rejection rates.

Outcome/Conclusion

India, as Chair of the EWG, introduced the item and explained that a proposed definition had been shared with the GEMS/Food administrator, who analyzed GEMS/Food data based on the proposed definition. The GEMS/Food administrator concluded that it would not be possible to compare AFT concentrations between RTE peanuts, as defined by the EWG, and peanuts intended for further processing (FFP), given that raw peanuts could fit in both categories and that most peanut data in GEMS/Food was of unknown classification. There was general consensus that a definition should be based on the definition for RTE tree nuts, without examples; that peanut butter is not a RTE peanut; and that products sold in stores are not labeled as RTE, which conflicts with the EWG's proposed definition.

The United States noted that a definition alone would not resolve the problem of data classification, as the definition would not provide clarity on how data should be submitted and that at the last session (CCCF16, 2023) several member countries indicated that they could not submit data until guidance was provided. After discussions with an informal in-session working group (ISWG) including the United States, the Chair proposed using the RTE tree nut definition for RTE peanuts and that there be a new call for data from 2014 onwards for which raw peanuts would have to be classified as RTE or FFP. For the data already in GEMS/Food, the Chair proposed that the GEMS/Food administrator seek clarification from data submitters on how submitted data should be classified. At the suggestion of the Host Country Secretariat, the United States agreed to co-chair the EWG for the next session. During the informal ISWG, the United States also flagged the need to consider years with higher as well as lower aflatoxin levels and the need to consider in the future whether roasting is a step that can reduce AFT.

In conclusion, CCCF17 agreed to apply the existing definition for RTE tree nuts to RTE peanuts; to request the JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data and to seek clarification on whether data currently in GEMS/Food were RTE or FFP; to re-establish the EWG, chaired by India and co-chaired by the United States; and to include in the EWG analysis points raised at CCCF15 and CCCF17 regarding analysis of data for RTE peanuts.

SAMPLING PLANS FOR TOTAL AFLATOXINS AND OCHRATOXIN A IN CERTAIN SPICES

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No

United States Objective

The United States' objective was for the EWG to work further on the sampling plan before final adoption.

Outcome/Conclusion

India, as Chair of the EWG, introduced a revised sampling plan and highlighted points for discussion: (1) definitions of large and small particle sizes, (2) number of incremental samples in relation to lot weight and particle size, (3) subdivisions of the aggregate sample, (4) the decision rule; and (5) numeric performance criteria. CCCF provided guidance on these issues and agreed to forward the revised sampling plan to CAC47 for interim adoption at Step 5, as well to re-establish the EWG, chaired by India, to consider the outstanding issues with the aim of finalizing the sampling plan at the next session.

CODE OF PRACTICE/GUIDELINES FOR THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF CIGUATERA POISONING

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No

United States Objective

The United States' objective was to advance the CoP in the step process.

Outcome/Conclusion

The United States, as Chair of the EWG and a Physical Working Group (PWG) held immediately prior to the plenary, introduced the item. The United States noted that the PWG had not identified any outstanding issues to be addressed and proposed that CCCF consider advancing the CoP to Step 5/8 for final adoption by CAC47. CCCF noted general support to advance the CoP and also agreed with a proposal by the Codex Secretariat to remove an annex containing resource information from the CoP and to publish it as an information document on the Committee website. CCCF agreed to forward the CoP for the prevention and reduction of ciguatera poisoning to CAC47 for final adoption at Step 5/8.

Other comments

Jamaica asked for clarification on the meaning of sub-chronic exposure and whether the species in Annex 1 were examples of fish species banned for consumption or sale.

Jamaica also questioned whether the CoP should include examples of approaches to ciguatera poisoning that included banning fish species. The United States clarified that Annex 1 was a list of species associated with CP, not banned species, and that the list was taken from the 2020 FAO/WHO *Report of the Expert Meeting on Ciguatera Poisoning*. The United States also clarified that the CoP did not recommend fishing bans; the COP mentions bans as one example in an inventory of approaches used by some competent authorities for management of ciguatera poisoning.

DISCUSSION PAPER ON PYRROLIZIDINE ALKALOIDS

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No

United States Objective

The United States' objectives regarding proposed new work on pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs) in tea, herbs, herbal infusions, spices, and honey were as follows:

- Support revision of the discussion paper to provide more details on potential mitigation strategies for preventing or reducing PAs,
- Alternatively, agree to support new work to revise the *Code of Practice for Weed Control to Prevent and Reduce Pyrrolizidine Alkaloid Contamination in Food and Feed* (CXC 74-2014) to include mitigation strategies for tea, herbs, herbal infusions, and spices, with an annex for honey; and
- Discourage establishment of minimum analytical requirements (such as limit of quantification, or LOQ) for submission of PA data to the GEMS/Food database, because establishing minimum requirements would conflict with conclusions reached by the EWG on Data Analysis and because there may be different data requirements for different purposes, e.g., higher limit of quantification (LOQ) results may be acceptable for informing work on mitigation.

Outcome/Conclusion

The European Union, as Chair of the EWG, introduced the item, noting general agreement to update CXC 74-2014, but different views on whether there should be an annex or a separate CoP for mitigation of PAs in honey. Türkiye supported a separate CoP for honey, but could agree to an annex. Brazil asked for more information on what measures were available that justified revising the CoP. The Chair agreed that weed control was the most important step, but that mitigation measures for food like teas, herbal infusions, and honey were important because of concerns raised in the JECFA evaluation.

The EWG Chair also noted that different views were expressed on the need for a guidance document establishing analytical minimum requirements for submission of PA data to the GEMS/Food database. Instead of including analytical minimum requirements, the Chair suggested this proposed work focus on providing guidance on sampling and performance characteristics. In response to a question from the United States on the purpose and form of a guidance document, the EWG Chair clarified that the guidance document would be used for the development of a call for data and acknowledged that there are different requirements for data for different purposes, such as monitoring CoP implementation, identifying foods to monitor, and establishing MLs. Given this update, Brazil asked if discussion of guidance development should be postponed until next year. The CCCF Chair suggested that the next step should be a revised discussion paper for CCCF18 with a draft CoP in an annex.

CCCF17 agreed to develop the discussion paper further, to prepare a proposal for a revised CoP for CCCF18, and to draft a guidance document on sampling and minimum analytical requirements for the collection of data to be submitted to the GEMS/Food contaminants database.

DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE NEED AND FEASIBILITY OF POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ON TROPANE ALKALOIDS

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No

United States Objective

The United States' objective was to support new work on a CoP for the prevention and reduction of tropane alkaloids. The United States did not support a proposal to have CCCF17 request JECFA to carry out a full-scale risk assessment for tropane alkaloids since MLs were not being proposed.

Outcome/Conclusion

China, as Chair of the EWG, presented the item, noting general support in the EWG to initiate work on a CoP, and also recommending a call for data and requesting JECFA to do a full risk assessment to determine the necessity for developing MLs in the future. The United States supported China's recommendation to have a call for data for TAs in food and feed but thought that it was premature to request a full JECFA evaluation for TAs, noting that this issue had been discussed in the VWG chaired by the United States on JECFA Priorities. CCCF agreed to re-establish an EWG chaired by China to prepare a revised discussion paper including a proposal for a new code of practice and project document for consideration by CCCF18 and to request the JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data on tropane alkaloid contamination in food and feed, with guidance to indicate the stage of sampling.

DISCUSSION PAPER ON ACRYLAMIDE IN FOODS

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No

United States Objective

The United States' objective was to ensure that a proposal to revise the *CoP for the Reduction of Acrylamide in Foods* (CXC 67-2009) be considered in the broader context of the timing and prioritization criteria developed by the WG for Review of Standards. The United States supported submission of acrylamide occurrence data, but did not support a new call for occurrence data at this time.

Outcome/Conclusion

India, as Chair of the EWG, proposed that CCCF consider revising CXC 67-2009 and requesting a new call for data on acrylamide in foods. The European Union, while welcoming the discussion paper, noted that a decision on new work could only be undertaken based on a draft CoP outlining what is missing in the current CoP. Canada, speaking as Chair of the WG on Review of Standards, noted that CXC 67-2009 will be on List A2, Standards > 15 years old, in 2025, so evaluation next year would be appropriate. Singapore questioned what would be included in the proposed call for data and the Chair asked India to explain the need for occurrence data. India referred to the JECFA evaluation being based on older occurrence data, but agreed to revisit the topic of a call for data next year.

CCCF agreed that that further work was needed to assess the availability of new mitigation measures which could be included in a revised discussion paper and project document for consideration by CCCF18; also that a call for occurrence data was premature, but that a CL would be issued to gather information on mitigation measures to support the EWG.

DISCUSSION PAPER ON CADMIUM AND LEAD IN QUINOA

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No

United States Objective

The United States' objective was to support establishment of MLs for lead and cadmium in quinoa, based on an analysis by the JECFA Secretariat showing the impact of MLs at 0.1 and 0.2 mg/kg. The United States' position was that it would not object to MLs of 0.1 mg/kg cadmium and lead, but would also appreciate consideration of 0.15 mg/kg cadmium and lead.

Outcome/Conclusion

The JECFA Secretariat presented an analysis of data on lead and cadmium in quinoa from the GEMS/Food database, including the impacts on dietary exposure and projected rejection rates for MLs of 0.1 mg/kg or 0.2 mg/kg lead and cadmium. CCCF discussed appropriate values for MLs and also whether quinoa should be covered in the existing MLs for cereal grains or if separate MLs should be established for quinoa, a pseudocereal. Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay supported separate MLs of 0.15 mg/kg for cadmium and 0.2 mg/kg for lead. Egypt and Morocco supported 0.1 mg/kg for cadmium and 0.2 mg/kg for lead and Indonesia supported 0.2 mg/kg for both lead and cadmium. Australia and Singapore questioned the need for MLs based on the JECFA report, but did not object to their establishment. CCCF agreed to forward MLs of 0.15 mg/kg cadmium and 0.2 mg/kg lead to CAC47.

DISCUSSION PAPER ON REVIEW OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF AFLATOXIN CONTAMINATION IN PEANUTS (CXC 55-2004)

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No

United States Objective

The United States objective was to support new work for CCCF18 to revise and update the *Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts* (CXC 55-2004).

Outcome/Conclusion

Brazil, as Chair of the EWG, introduced the item. There was general support for the proposal to start new work to revise the CoP. CCCF agreed to create an EWG to start new work on the revision of CXC 55-2004, with Brazil as Chair and India as co-Chair.

DISCUSSION PAPER ON REVIEW OF THE *CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE REDUCTION OF AFLATOXIN B1 IN RAW MATERIALS AND SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDINGSTUFFS FOR MILK-PRODUCING ANIMALS* (CXC 45-1997)

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No

United States Objective

The United States supported the recommendation of the EWG to review and update CXC 45-1997.

Outcome/Conclusion

Canada, as Chair of the EWG, introduced the item and highlighted some of the new or additional measures that might be included in a revised CoP, also noting potential

overlap with other CoPs relevant to animal feed. The Chair noted that CCCF’s new practice before approving new work would be to require a draft CoP as part of a discussion paper, in order to quickly make decisions on next steps and move in a timely way through the step process. CCCF agreed with the recommendation to further develop the discussion paper and provide a proposal for a revised CoP and a project document for new work for CCCF18. While this work proceeds, CCCF also agreed to consider in the future how different CoPs could be integrated or merged to avoid overlap and inconsistencies.

DISCUSSION PAPER ON DEVELOPMENT OF A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF CADMIUM CONTAMINATION IN FOODS

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No
Have the United States’ Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No

United States Objective
 The United States’ objective was to begin new work on a CoP for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods.

Outcome/Conclusion
 The United States, as Chair of the EWG, introduced the item and explained that based on risk management practices identified from a literature review and information provided by Codex members, there were sufficient data to support a code of practice. The United States also explained that input was required on whether there was a need for annexes that could contain commodity-specific recommendations. Australia, Canada, the European Union, Thailand, and Singapore supported development of a CoP. Australia commented that regional guidance may be needed for certain foods such as mollusks. The European Union supported a general CoP with measures for a wide range of foods, but in case certain mitigation measures were very specific or detailed, annexes could be supported for those commodities. Singapore suggested prioritizing work on annexes for foods that contribute significantly to cadmium exposure such as rice, cereals, cereal products, vegetables, fish, and seafood. The Chair noted general support for a CoP and said that annexes could be discussed further in the EWG. CCCF agreed to forward the project document to CAC47 and to establish an EWG chaired by the United States to develop a CoP for consideration by CCCF18 and to consider the need for annexes with commodity specific recommendations.

GUIDANCE ON DATA ANALYSIS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MAXIMUM LEVELS AND FOR IMPROVED DATA COLLECTION

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No

<p>Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No</p>
<p>United States Objective There have been significant and repeated delays in advancing this work, due to inactivity by the EWG Chair. A new work approach was suggested prior to the plenary, whereby future work would occur at a WG held at or immediately prior to CCCF. The United States agreed to the new approach, but our primary objective was to ensure completion of the Guidance on data analysis, a draft document prepared by the European Union, the United States, Japan, and the Netherlands. The United States advocated that the best way to complete the Guidance would be to conduct a regularly scheduled virtual meetings over the coming year, considering input from co-Chairs, member countries, and the GEMS/Food Administrator, similar to what was done in preparation for CCCF16 (2023), when co-Chairs United States, Japan, and the Netherlands hosted virtual working group meetings and prepared draft sections of the guidance.</p>
<p>Outcome/Conclusion Following discussions in a VWG, a PWG, and between the Chairs and Co-Chairs, the European Union, as Chair of the EWG, proposed that work could be undertaken in a pre-session WG similar to the JECFA Outcomes or JECFA Priorities WGs, which meet virtually prior to the CCCF plenary. To supplement the proposed pre-session WG for CCCF18, two VWGs are planned for 2024, which would be led by Co-Chairs and would address (1) finalizing the modifications to the GEMS/Food database template and related guidance and (2) content of the main document and possible annexes. The EWG Chair also reviewed responses from the GEMS/Food Administrator to recommendations from CCCF16. These will be discussed further in a meeting with the Chair (European Union), Co-Chair (United States), and the GEMS/Food Administrator in June. CCCF17 agreed the WG should produce a simple, practical guidance on data analysis for CCCF18. CCCF17 also agreed that more complex issues identified in the future would be addressed in separate annexes, following completion of the main guidance.</p>

<p>REVIEW OF CODEX STANDARDS FOR CONTAMINANTS</p>
<p>To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No</p>
<p>United States Objective The United States' objective was to support adoption of the Review Process as a standing item in the CCCF agenda, now that a three-year trial period is complete.</p>
<p>Outcome/Conclusion</p>

<p>CCCF17 agreed to make review of Codex standards a standing item on the agenda of CCCF.</p>
<p>Other comments The United States intervened to compliment Canada on their thorough and clear approach to help CCCF prioritize its future work.</p>

**FOLLOW-UP WORK TO THE OUTCOMES OF JECFA EVALUATIONS AND
FAO/WHO EXPERT CONSULTATIONS**

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No
Have the United States’ Objectives Been Met? Yes
Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No

United States Objective
The United States supported the issuance of a CL on JECFA Outcomes prior to CCCF, with the CL containing a table listing JECFA evaluations and status of risk management work in CCCF. Issuing a CL/table in advance of CCCF would help member countries review and prioritize new work proposals.

Outcome/Conclusion
The European Union, as Chair of the WG, introduced the item and reviewed discussions in a VWG held prior to CCCF17. The Chair reviewed the conclusions of previous JECFA evaluations on ergot alkaloids and T-2, HT-2, and diacetoxyscirpenol (DAS) and a recent FAO/WHO expert consultation on Risks and Benefits of Fish Consumption. No volunteers were identified to chair EWGs on ergot alkaloids or T-2, HT-2, and diacetoxyscirpenol (DAS).

The Chair noted a request to list previous JECFA evaluations and FAO/WHO expert consultations in a CL with an indication of the follow-up by CCCF, i.e., discussion paper, Code of Practice, and/or MLs. The Chair shared a preliminary list and CCCF agreed that a complete list could be maintained in CCCF information document INF-1, prepared by Japan and the Netherlands, and a shorter list focusing on recent evaluations would be maintained as part of the JECFA Outcomes agenda item.

Given that no JECFA evaluations were planned before CCCF18 and since a new ISWG on data analysis was being established, the CCCF Chair proposed to merge the JECFA Outcomes WG with the WG on the Priority list of contaminants for evaluation by JECFA, with the United States as Chair.

Other comments
The United States noted that while this information document was not usually discussed at CCCF meetings, it was a helpful resource to learn about the history of Codex standards on contaminants and expressed appreciation to Japan and the Netherlands for preparing this document.

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PRIORITY LIST OF CONTAMINANTS FOR EVALUATION BY JECFA
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To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No

United States Objective The United States chairs the WG. As the United States, our objective was to provide updates on dioxin and arsenic data availability and to suggest an editorial change to the Priority List.
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Outcome/Conclusion The United States, as Chair of the WG, introduced the item and reviewed discussions in a VWG held prior to CCCF17. The VWG recommended addition of ethylene oxide (EtO) and 2-chloroethanol (2-CE) to the priority list, following receipt of a recommendation from CCPR that JECFA should take the lead on the evaluation of EtO, with support from the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR). The FAO Representative clarified that a call for data for EtO and 2-CE would be issued once the JECFA Secretariat determined when this evaluation could be carried out by JECFA. CCCF17 agreed to endorse the priority list with the recommended amendments, including updates on data availability for dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs, arsenic (inorganic and organic), thallium, and PFAS.
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