



Codex News – January 8, 2025

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA)

The 25th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA25) is scheduled to take place in Kampala, Uganda from January 27-31, 2025. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCAFRICA25 will be provided as they become available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCAFRICA&session=25>. For additional information, please contact Ken Lowery (Ken.lowery@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP)

The 17th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP) is scheduled to take place in Nadi, Fiji from February 3-7, 2025. The meeting will have hybrid capabilities and will be conducted in English only. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCNASWP17 will be provided as they become available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCNASWP&session=17>. For additional information, please contact Marie Maratos Bhat (marie.maratosbhat@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

The 23rd Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV23) is scheduled to take place in Mexico City, Mexico, from February 25-March 1, 2025. The session will be conducted in English, French, and Spanish. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCFFV23 are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFFV&session=23>. For additional information, please contact Doreen Chen-Moulec (doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

The 55th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA55) is scheduled to take place in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from March 24-28, 2025. Prior to plenary, there will be two physical working group (PWGs) meetings on March 21 and 22, as follows:

- *General standard for food additives*: Friday, March 21 (09.00–18.00) and Saturday, March 22 (09.00–12.30); and
- Endorsement/alignment of the food additive provisions: Saturday March 22 (14.30–18.00)

The session will be conducted in English, French, Spanish and Chinese. The provisional agenda and other working documents related to CCFA55 are available at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFA&session=55>. For additional information, please contact Kristen Hendricks (kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office.

Request for Comments

Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/90-FFV) requesting comments on the proposed standard for fresh curry leaves. The CL is available in English at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by January 31, 2025. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their Codex Contact Point (CCP) using the Online Commenting System OCS at the following link: <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/> prior to the deadline of February 10, 2025.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

The Codex Secretariat has issued a Circular Letter (CL 2024/91-MAS) requesting information on ISO 1871 (determination of protein in quinoa). The CL is available in English, French and Spanish at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>. If you are interested in having your comments considered in the U.S. response, please send them to Doreen Chen-Moulec (Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov) of the U.S. Codex Office by March 17, 2025. Comments by Member Countries and Codex Observers should be submitted via their CCP using the OCS at the following link: <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/> prior to the deadline of March 31, 2025.

Electronic Working Groups (EWG)

Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

Food Fraud: CCFICS invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by the United States and co-chaired by China, European Union, Iran, Panama, and United Kingdom, working in English and Spanish, to progress the revision of the existing text on food fraud. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Kristen Hendricks (Kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) by January 13, 2025. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details, including participant's name, official title or position, country or organization, and email address via their CCP to uscodex@usda.gov by January 15, 2025. As the EWG will operate on the EWG Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Revision to Exchange of Information Text: Establishment Listings: CCFICS invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Norway and co-chaired by Australia, India, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Spain, working in English, on revising the *Principles and Guidelines for exchange of information between importing and exporting countries to support the trade in food* (CXG 89 -2016). The EWG will develop principles and guidelines to harmonize the use, development and implementation of establishment listings. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Kristen Hendricks

(kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) by January 10, 2025. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details, including participant's name, official title or position, country or organization, and email address via their CCP to Codexewg@mattilsynet.no by January 15, 2025. As the EWG will operate on the EWG Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Revision to Traceability Text: CCFICS invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Australia, Ecuador, Honduras, and the United Kingdom, working in English and Spanish, on revising the *principles and guidelines on traceability/product tracing as a tool within a Food Inspection and Certification System* (CXG 60-2006). Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Kristen Hendricks (kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) by January 10, 2025. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details, including participant's name, official title or position, country or organization, and email address via their CCP to uscodex@usda.gov by January 15, 2025. As the EWG will operate on the EWG Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Consolidation of Guidance on Equivalence: CCFICS invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Kenya, working in English, on progressing the consolidation of all CCFICS guidance on equivalence. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Kristen Hendricks (kristen.hendricks@usda.gov) by January 13, 2025. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details, including participant's name, official title or position, country or organization, and email address via their CCP to CodexNZ@mpi.govt.nz by January 17, 2025. As the EWG will operate on the EWG Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Codex Committee on Food Labeling (CCFL)

Joint Presentation and Multipack Formats: CCFL invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Columbia and co-chaired by Canada, India, and Jamaica, working in English and Spanish, to continue drafting the provisions relevant to joint presentation and multipack formats. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Alex Ferraro (alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by January 17, 2025. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details, including participant's name, official title or position, country or organization, and email address via their CCP to sosorioa@invima.gov.co with a copy to codex_canada@hc-sc.gc.ca by January 22, 2025. As the EWG will operate on the EWG Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Food Labeling in Emergencies: CCFL invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by the United States, working in English, on the Proposed Guidelines on the Application of Food Labeling in Emergencies. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Alex Ferraro (alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by February 3, 2025. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details, including participant's name, official title or position, country or organization, and email address via their CCP to uscodex@usda.gov, Bryce.carson@usda.gov, and Alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov by February 7, 2025. As the EWG will operate on the EWG Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)

NRVs-R: CCNFSDU invites members and observers to join an EWG chaired by Ireland and co-chaired by Costa Rica and the United States, working in English and Spanish, on updating the tables presented in Appendix II of CX/NFSDU 24/44/4 (Part B rev) and the Application of the Stepwise Process to propose NRVs-R for persons aged 6 to 36 months. Individuals in the United States interested in working on the U.S. contribution to the EWG should contact Alex Ferraro (alexandra.ferraro@usda.gov) by January 27, 2025. Other countries and observers should send their full contact details, including participant's name, official title or position, country or organization, and email address via their CCP to mflynn@fsai.ie and nclarke@fsai.ie with a copy to catherine.mcginn@agriculture.gov.ie by January 31, 2025. As the EWG will operate on the EWG Forum, please note that when there is more than one expert, each country or observer organization shall designate one as the official representative to participate in the EWG.

Other

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

Codex Magazine: The eighth edition of the Codex magazine entitled “*Codex: Protecting health, facilitating trade – Looking to the Future*” was recently published. The magazine features a round-up of committee happenings and voices of Member Countries and Observers. The magazine may be accessed at the following link: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd3387en>.

Electronic Working Group (EWG) Handbook: The Codex Secretariat recently published the Electronic Working Group Handbook which is designed for Codex EWG participants to enhance their engagement in Codex activities or lead committee-level efforts. It offers clear, practical guidance with tips and advice for establishing, managing, participating in, and reporting on EWGs. The handbook can be found at the following link: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd3481en>.

29th Edition of the Codex Procedural Manual: The 29th edition of the *Codex Procedural Manual* has been published and builds on the new format and layout unveiled in the 28th edition, reflecting ongoing efforts to ensure consistency, remove redundancies, and enhance usability. The 29th edition of the *Procedural Manual* may be found at the following link: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd2280en>.

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

- **JECFA101 Call for Data:** The call for data for the JECFA 101st meeting that will be dedicated to the evaluation of veterinary drugs has been published by FAO and WHO at the below links respectively. Deadline for data submission is January 15, 2025:
 - FAO information can be found at the following link: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd3050en>
 - WHO information can be found at the following link: [https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/veterinary-drug-residues-in-food-one-hundred-and-first-meeting-joint-fao-who-expert-committee-on-food-additives-\(jecfa\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/veterinary-drug-residues-in-food-one-hundred-and-first-meeting-joint-fao-who-expert-committee-on-food-additives-(jecfa))

Joint Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA)

- JEMRA convened a meeting to review recent scientific developments, data, and evidence associated with foodborne viruses. The report of the *Microbiological Risk Assessment of Viruses in Foods: Part I: Food Attribution, Analytical Methods and Indicators: Meeting Report* may be found at the following link: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240101074>.

FAO

- **Call for Experts and Data:** The FAO is seeking experts and data for the FAO expert meeting on microbiological risk assessment of *Clostridium spp.* in foods, scheduled to meet in Rome, Italy from February 17-21, 2025. Experts are requested to submit CVs as soon as possible. The review of applications and candidates will continue until sufficient suitable candidates are identified. Kindly submit any relevant data and information **January 31, 2025.** The call for experts and data may be found at the following link: [FAO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment. Call for experts and data on microbiological risk assessment of Clostridium spp. in foods](#). For additional information please contact: Kang.Zhou@fao.org.
- **Workshop on Feed Risk Assessment (Chemical Safety):** The FAO and the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) of The Netherlands are co-organizing an international workshop on Feed Risk Assessment (chemical safety) in Utrecht, Netherlands from March 10-11, 2025. The workshop will aim to explore the state of art in methods and tools for the risk assessment of chemical contaminants in animal feed. The focus will be on possible animal health risks and health risk for consumers of animal products. For more information, including the workshop program and registration details, please visit the following link: <https://www.rivm.nl/en/food-safety/international-workshop-feed-risk-assessment-chemical-safety> or send an email to IWFRA-CS@rivm.nl. The deadline for registration is January 15, 2025.
- **Review on the Safety of Alternative Food Packaging:** An article co-authored by experts from the FAO and Danone recently published in the journal of *Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety*. The article examines the potential risks and opportunities associated with recycled and bio-based materials used in food packaging, reusable and hybrid packaging, and innovations such as nanotechnologies and active and intelligent packaging. The review may be accessed at the following link: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1541-4337.70059>.

FAO/WHO

- **Guidance on Aerial Management of Pesticides:** The FAO/WHO has released an updated publication on the *International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management: Guidance for aerial application of pesticides*. This present version covers new developments in aerial application of pesticides since 2001. The publication may be accessed at the following link: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240076785>.

WHO

- **Call for Experts:** The World Health Organization (WHO) is seeking experts to serve as members of the WHO-UNICEF Technical Expert Advisory group on nutrition Monitoring (TEAM). Application details can be found at the following link: <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-experts-who-unicef-technical-expert-advisory-group-on-nutrition-monitoring-team>. If you have any questions about this “Call for experts”, please write to nfs@who.int well before the applicable deadline.