

**REPORT PROVIDED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
AT THE TBT COMMITTEE MEETING OF 16-17 JUNE 2005**

Agenda Item 5(b): Updating by Observers

The following report, dated 16 June 2005, is being circulated at the request of the Codex.

**I. CODEX SESSIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE TBT COMMITTEE
(MARCH 2005)**

- The 26th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (4-8 April 2005, Budapest, Hungary)
- The 22nd Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (11-15 April 2005, Paris, France)
- The 37th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (18-23 April 2005, The Hague, Netherlands)
- The 37th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (25-29 April 2005, The Hague, Netherlands)
- The 33rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (9-13 May 2005, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia)
- The 12th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (16-20 May 2005, Mexico City, Mexico)

1. In particular, the attention of the TBT Committee is drawn to the following meetings:

2. The 26th Session of the **Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling**, in addition to the endorsement of methods of analysis in Codex standards, is currently working on the *Draft Guidelines for Evaluating Acceptable Methods of Analysis*, the *Proposed Draft Guidelines for Settling Disputes on Analytical (Test) Results* and the revision of the *Analytical Terminology for Codex Use*. The Committee decided to continue its work on the criteria for methods of analysis for foods derived from biotechnology; the methods for the determination of dioxins and PCBs; and to consider the revision of the IUPAC/ISO/AOAC Protocol for Proficiency Testing and sampling uncertainty at its next session.

3. The 22nd Session of the **Codex Committee on General Principles** agreed to abolish the acceptance procedure for Codex standards as many delegations recognized that it had not been used by Member countries for a long time and that it was not relevant in the framework of the WTO SPS

and TBT Agreements. All relevant sections of the Procedural Manual were amended accordingly. The Committee also discussed the need for information on the use of Codex standards and agreed that the Codex Secretariat should initiate informal consultations with the WTO Secretariat on how to monitor information on the use of Codex standards at the national level.

4. The 33rd Session of the **Codex Committee on Food Labelling** decided to forward the Proposed Draft Amendment to the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Quantitative Declaration of Ingredients* to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption as a Draft Amendment and is proceeding with its work on the revision of the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Annex 2 – Permitted Substances*. The Committee agreed to consider at its next session the Draft Amendment to the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (Draft Recommendations for the Labelling of Foods Obtained through Certain Techniques of Genetic Modification/Genetic Engineering): *Definitions* and to redraft and ask for further comments on the proposed draft *Guidelines for the Labelling of Food and Food Ingredients Obtained through Certain Techniques of Genetic Modification/Genetic Engineering: Labelling Provisions*. The Committee agreed not to undertake new work on country of origin labelling and agreed to continue its discussion on advertising in relation to claims at its next session.

5. The 12th Session of the **Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables** discussed quality provisions (including labelling requirements) in the standards for apples, rambutans, table grapes and tomatoes as well as matters surrounding the quality control of fresh fruits and vegetables. The Committee agreed to forward the proposed draft *Codex Standard for Rambutan* to the 28th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for final adoption at Step 5/8 with omission of Steps 6/7 and agreed to continue work on the other issues. It was also agreed to initiate work on the revision of the *Codex Standard for Sweet Cassava* in order to include other varieties of cassava fit for human consumption, subject to the approval as new work by the next session of the Commission.

II. RECOMMENDED INTERNATIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE HANDLING AND PROCESSING OF QUICK FROZEN FOODS

6. The 27th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (July 2004) agreed to proceed with the revision of the *Recommended International Code of Practice for the Handling and Processing of Quick Frozen Foods* working by correspondence on the quality provisions of the Code before transferring the work on finalization of hygienic/safety provisions to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene so that a single revised document can be sent to the Commission for final adoption. As a follow-up to this decision, the Code is currently being circulated for a second round of comments on the quality provisions with a view to including greater range of views in the revision thus enabling the finalization of all quality provisions of the Code by the next Session of the Commission (July 2005).

III. FORTHCOMING CODEX MEETINGS

- The 56th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (30 June–2 July 2005, Rome, Italy)
- The 28th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (4 – 9 July 2005, Rome, Italy)
- The 5th *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology (19-23 September 2005, Chiba, Japan)
- The 26th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (21–25 November 2005, Bonn, Germany)

- The 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (28 November – 2 December 2005, Melbourne, Australia)

7. In particular, the attention of the TBT Committee is drawn to the following meetings:

8. The **Codex Alimentarius Commission** will hold its 28th Session at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N., Rome, Italy, from 4–9 July 2005, preceded by the 56th Session of the Executive Committee. The 28th Session will consider, among others, draft Codex standards and related texts for final adoption at Step 8 or at Step 5/8 (see Annex) as well as proposals to amend the Rules of Procedure and other texts in the Procedural Manual.

9. The 14th Session of the **Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems** will consider Principles for the Application of Traceability/Product Tracing in the context of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems. A first draft of the Principles, subject to approval of new work by the 28th Session of the Commission, will be elaborated by a Working Group, led by Australia and co-chaired by Argentina and Norway, which will meet in Brussels on 12-14 September 2005. The Committee, among others, will also start working on the revision of the Guidelines for Generic Official Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates and will consider draft Principles and Guidelines for Risk-based Inspection of Imported Foods and a discussion paper on the revision of the Guidelines for the Exchange of Information Between Countries on Rejections of Imported Foods.

IV. REVIEW OF CODEX COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND MANDATES OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

10. As a follow-up to the *Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO and WHO Work on Food Standards*, conducted in 2002, and the ongoing implementation of its recommendations by Codex, a team of consultants was recruited in September 2004 to conduct a review of the Codex Committee structure and the mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces, with a view to formulating recommendations for consideration by the Commission. A Final Report by the consultants has been circulated for government comments and will be discussed at the 56th Session of the Executive Committee, followed by the 28th Codex Alimentarius Commission (July 2005).

V. FAO/WHO PROJECT AND TRUST FUND FOR ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN CODEX

11. The Codex Trust Fund became operational in March 2004. During the March to December 2004 period, a total of 83 participants from 75 countries attended 14 separate Codex meetings, utilizing US\$561,297 of funding from the Codex Trust Fund. As of 31 December 2004, nine national governments and the European Community had contributed a total of US\$1,543,090.

12. The main objective of the Codex Trust Fund is to enhance participation of Codex Member States, especially least developed countries, in the work of Codex Alimentarius. It has been recognized that active participation of Member States in Codex significantly enhances the countries' ability to further develop their food safety systems, and thereby their capacity to protect the health of their citizens as it relates to food and to promote food trade, nationally and internationally.

13. In 2005, a total amount of US\$1,073,926 is expected to be flowing into the Trust Fund, thanks to the contributions from Canada, the European Community, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands. Applications for support in 2005 from the Codex Trust Fund closed on 31 December 2004. Ninety-one countries applied for support to send nearly three hundred participants to Codex meetings in 2005. Application forms for support, by way of Codex meeting

attendance, training and other activities in 2006, are expected to be available on the WHO, FAO and Codex web sites from July 2005, together with full details of eligibility and application procedure.

14. Further information can be found on the web site of the Codex Trust Fund:

<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/codex/trustfund/en/>

VI. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

15. The membership currently comprises 171 Member Nations and one Member Organization.
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ANNEX

STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS SUBMITTED TO THE CODEX
ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION FOR ADOPTION

CODEX BODY	DOCUMENT
CCFAC	Draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives
CCFAC	Draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Tree Nuts
CCFAC	Draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Tin Contamination in Canned Foods
CCFAC	Draft Maximum Levels for cadmium in wheat grain; potato; stem and root vegetables; leafy vegetables; and, other vegetables
CCFAC	Proposed draft amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives
CCFAC	Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives arising from the 63 rd JECFA meeting
CCFAC	Proposed draft revision of the Preamble of the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods (GSCTF) (N09-2004)
CCFFP	Draft Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (section on Aquaculture)
CCFFP	Draft Amendment to the Standard for Salted Fish and Dried Salted Fish of the <i>Gadidae</i> Family
CCFFP	Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (Shrimps and Prawns; Cephalopods; Transport; Retail; and relevant Definitions)
CCFFV	Proposed draft Standard for Ranbutan
CCFICS	Proposed draft Principles for Electronic Certification
CCFO	Proposed draft Amendment to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oil; Amendment of Sesame Seed Oil
CCFO	Proposed Draft Revised Table 1 of the Recommended International Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk
CCMH	Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat
CCNEA	Proposed Draft Regional Guidelines for Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees
CCNFSDU	Draft Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Food Supplements
CCPR	Draft and Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Levels for Pesticides

CODEX BODY	DOCUMENT
CCPR	Proposed Draft Interim MRLs
CCPR	Proposed Draft MRLs for Spices
CCPR	Proposed Draft Guidelines on the Use of Mass Spectrometry (MS) for Identification, Confirmation and Quantitative Determination of Residues
CCPR	Proposed New Codes and Numbers for Commodities with Adopted MRLs
CCRVDF	Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs
CCRVDF	Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs
CCRVDF	Proposed Draft Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance
TFFVJ	Draft Codex General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars
TFFVJ	Draft Minimum Brix Level for Reconstituted Juice and Reconstituted Purée and Minimum Juice and/or Purée Content for Fruit Nectars (% v/v) <i>grape, guava, mandarine/tangerine, mango, passion fruit and tamarind (Indian date) juices/nectars</i>
TFFVJ	Proposed Draft Minimum Brix Level for Reconstituted Juice and Reconstituted Purée and Minimum Juice and/or Purée Content for Fruit Nectars (% v/v) <i>lemon, lime, orange and pineapple juices/nectars</i>