



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Seventy-seventh session

Geneva, 14–16 (a.m.) November 2022

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

Matters arising since the last session:

Recent developments in other organizations

The following note provides an update from the Codex Secretariat on recent activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission of relevance to the Working Party. It was submitted by the Codex Secretariat for information only.

Information on recent activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies on quality standards for fruits and vegetables

Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (22nd Session, Virtual, 25-29 April and 4 May 2022)

This Committee has mandate on the establishment of worldwide commodity (commercial quality) standards for fresh fruits and vegetables and other related text to support the implementation of FFV standards. Host Country Secretariat: Mexico.

CCFFV22 agreed to forward the following standards to the 45th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission:

- Standard for Onions and Shallots (Final adoption)
- Standard for Berry Fruits (Final adoption)
- Standard for Fresh Dates (Final adoption)
- Standard for Bananas (Editorial amendment, adoption)
- Castilla lulo (Approval of new work)
- Fresh curry leaves (Approval of new work)

CCFFV22 also agreed to review existing FFV standards to ensure alignment with the Codex FFV Layout and to consider necessary updates.

The *Layout for Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables* and the *Definition of Terms for Application in the Layout for Codex Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables* have been completed and published on the Codex website as an information document for internal use by CCFFV.

Note

The report of CCFFV22 is available from:

<https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFFV&session=22>

Information has also been provided by the Codex Secretariat to the 70th Session of the UNECE Specialized Section on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CodexSubmission_May2022.pdf

- For further information and updates on the work of CCSCH please visit the Codex website: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/related-meetings/en/?committee=CCFFV>

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (6th Session, Virtual, 26-30 September and 3 October 2022)

This Committee has mandate on the establishment of worldwide commodity (commercial quality) standards for spices and culinary herbs in their dried and dehydrated state. Host Country Secretariat: India.

CCSCH6 agreed to forward the following standards to the 45th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission:

- Standard for Dried Floral Parts – Saffron (Final adoption)
- Standard for Dried or Dehydrated Chilli Pepper and Paprika (Final adoption);
- Standard for Dried Seeds – Nutmeg (Final adoption)
- Standard for Dried Small Cardamom (Advancement in the Codex Step Procedure and further consideration at CCSCH7)
- General (Group) Standard for Spices Derived From Dried Fruits and Berries – Allspice, Juniper berry, and Star anise (Advancement in the Codex Step Procedure and further consideration at CCSCH7)

CCSCH6 also agreed to:

- review the SCH standard template. Comments should be submitted for consideration by CCSCH7
- request submission of proposals for new work for consideration by CCSCH7

Note

- The report of CCSCH6 is available from:

<https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCSCH&session=6>

- For further information and updates on the work of CCSCH please visit the Codex website: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/related-meetings/en/?committee=CCSCH>

Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables

This Committee has mandate on the establishment of worldwide commodity (commercial quality) standards for processed fruits and vegetables including dry and dried products and excluding spices and culinary herbs. The Committee is currently adjourned sine die (inactive). Host Country Secretariat: United States of America.

Other matters

Monitoring the use and impact of Codex standards

The Codex Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO and WHO evaluation offices, are working on a mechanism to measure the use and impact of Codex standards which will progress in three directions:

- A survey on the use of selected Codex texts and their impact to all Codex members be developed and issued annually.
- Work with the WTO/SPS and TBT Secretariats to explore a collaborative monitoring and reporting framework in which Codex Texts have been highlighted in trade negotiations, SPS, TBT notifications, specific trade concerns, and disputes, but also for disputes that were prevented thanks to Codex texts. The Codex Secretariat approached the SPS Secretary for preliminary talks on potential collaboration. These will continue, also in collaboration with the other standard-setting organizations.
- Tailored case studies to assess the use and impact of specific Codex texts within the context of a Member Country or Observer.

The Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC82, June 2022) recognized the benefits and challenges in monitoring the use and impact of Codex texts, and the importance of engagement as the process evolved and of periodic review and endorsed the approach for building the Codex monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework, with piloting in 2022 and consideration of preliminary results by CCEXEC83 and CAC45 both meetings to take place in November 2022.

Additional information on the monitoring the use and impact of Codex standards: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/monitoring/tr/>
