

IFT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT OF THE 2011 MEETING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC)

The 34th session of the Commission meeting was held July 4 – 9, 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland. Chairperson Ms. Karen Hulebak, presided over the session, assisted by the Vice-Chairpersons Mr. Knud Ostergaard (Denmark), Mr. Sanjay Dave (India) and Mr. Ben Manyindo (Uganda). The meeting was attended by representatives of 145 member countries, 9 international governmental organizations, and 28 international nongovernment organizations.

The World Health Organization issued a note to the press on the outcome of the meeting. Accessible at: ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/CAC/cac34/Codex_note_EN.pdf, the WHO note reports on the action regarding biotechnology labeling (adoption of a compilation of relevant Codex texts), and adoption of guidelines for risk analysis of foodborne antimicrobial resistance and control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* spp. in chicken meat, and the lack of consensus on maximum residue limits for ractopamine. An audio recording of the session is accessible at: http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/audio_en.jsp.

Other texts adopted include:

Annex to the Guidelines on Nutrition Labeling: General Principles for Establishing Nutrient Reference Values of Vitamins and Minerals for the General Population

Revision of the Guidelines on Nutritional Labelling: List of Nutrients that are Always Declared on a Voluntary or Mandatory Basis

Revision of the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Collecting, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters

New work to be initiated:

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene: Guidelines for Control of Specific Zoonotic Parasites in Meat: *Trichinella spiralis* and *C. bovis*; Annex on Melons to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods: Maximum Levels for Arsenic in Rice

Codex Committee on Food Labeling: Inclusion of new substances into the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods

Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses: Inclusion of a New Part B for Underweight Children in the Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children (CODEX STAN 74-1981)

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling: Principles for the Use of Sampling and Testing in International Food Trade

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils: Standard for Fish Oils

Other Action

CAC: agreed to consider the draft MRLs for bovine somatotropin at the next session, and request that the Secretariat prepare a paper describing the history, including a summary of the JECFA evaluation of this item, in Codex.

GSFA: revision of the Food Category System (05.1, 05.2, 05.4); revision of Section 4 “Carry-over of Food Additives” into Food of the Preamble; adoption of numerous food additive provisions

Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS): referred the views of the coordinating committees on product tracing to the CCFICS.

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods: the CAC adopted the Proposed Draft Maximum Levels for Melamine in Liquid Infant Formula at step 5 to advance to step 6 for further discussion

Elections

Mr. Sanjay Dave of India was elected chair of the Commission; Dr. Samuel Godefroy of Canada, Mrs. Awilo Ochieng Pernet of Switzerland, and Professor Samuel Sefa-Dedeh of Ghana were elected as Vice Chairs.