

IFT DELEGATE'S REPORT OF THE 2011 CCFL SESSION

The 39th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) was held May 9 - 13, 2011, in Quebec City, Canada. The Session was chaired by Paul Mayers, Canadian Food Inspection Agency. IFT was represented by Gloria Brooks-Ray.

This report presents a synopsis of the discussion and decisions from the Session.

Labelling of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology

Work on this topic was finalized and a document was forwarded to the Commission for adoption. The document is a compilation of Codex Texts that are relevant to the labelling of all foods, including those derived from modern biotechnology, and is not intended to suggest or imply that foods derived from modern biotechnology are necessarily different from other foods simply due to their method of production.

Issues Related to Nutrition Labelling

- The list of nutrients that will be mandatory when nutrition labelling is used was finalized and forwarded to the Commission for adoption. The nutrients added to those that are already required were saturated fat, sodium and total sugars. Countries would be permitted to use "salt equivalents" instead of "sodium" on the nutrition label.
- A proposed definition for nutrient reference values (NRVs) was advanced to the Commission at Step 5, after which additional comments will be requested and the definition discussed at the next CCFL Session.
- Principles for the claims "no added sugars" and "no added salt" were developed and referred to the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) for advice.
- The Committee agreed to develop nutrient content claims for trans fatty acids. CCFL will request CCNFSDU to give its opinion on the need for a revision of the definition of trans-fatty acid.
- There was no consensus on whether to work on mandatory nutrition labelling or modified standardized common names; electronic working groups were established to address each of these issues.
- The Committee agreed not to begin new work on symbols to represent ingredients on the label.

Issues Related to Organic Foods

- Uses of several additional substances in the production of organic foods will be considered further at future CCFL Sessions.
- The Committee agreed to use a structured approach for future review of substances for use in organic production.
- Guidelines for organically produced aquaculture animals and seaweed will be developed.

Next CCFL Session

The next CCFL Session is tentatively scheduled for May 14 - 18, 2012, in Ottawa, Canada.