



CODEX and Special Foods

3^o China Special Food Conference

Beijing, China, 2018-10-31

Tom Heilandt, Codex Secretary

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**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



**World Health
Organization**

Goal

From Field to Fork
Hunter Gatherer



From
Hu

Understand Codex Alimentarius as a flexible international tool to achieve results by creating international standards and networks



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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



World Health Organization

Outline

From Field to Fork

Hunter-Gutierrez




From

Hu

- Food glorious food
- Codex: an international tool
 - Work methods
 - Achievements
 - Sustainable development goals
- Codex and special foods
- The future





World bank: impact of unsafe food costs
low- and middle-income economies about US\$
110 billion in lost productivity and medical
expenses each year

WHO (2010): 600 million illnesses and 420000
premature deaths through foodborne diseases

Food glorious food
From Field to Fork
Hunter Gatherer



From
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We rely on food



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From Field to Fork
Hunter Gatherer

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Fragile Food



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Available

Safe

Nutritious

Tasty

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Food is a commodity like no other

中国营养保健食品协会

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Codex: An international tool

**Setting standards,
Building networks,
Since 1963**

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A photograph of a busy market stall. In the foreground, two people are seen from behind, looking towards the stall. One is wearing a light blue jacket and a white cap, the other a dark jacket and a red bag. The stall is made of wood and has a sign that reads "Salt & Pepper Chilli Squid". In the background, another stall is visible with a sign that says "From Field to Fork Hunter Gatherer". The overall scene is a vibrant, active market environment.

Codex covers all foods and their production

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Protect consumers health

Ensure fair practices in food trade

Coordinate food standards work

188+1 Members = 99% of all people

100% Member driven

Voluntary

Based on science (JECFA, JMPR, JEMRA, JEMNU)

Consensus, transparent, inclusive

Harmonization of rules

Reference in WTO-SPS (TBT)

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GROWTH IN WORLD FOOD EXPORTS AND CODEX MEMBERSHIP



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How Codex works

Codex Alimentarius Commission

Executive Committee

Horizontal / General Committees

General Principles (France)	Food Labelling (Canada)
Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (Australia)	Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (United States)
Food Additives (China)	Pesticide Residues (China)
Contaminants in Foods (Netherlands)	Food Hygiene (United States)
Methods of Analysis and Sampling (Hungary)	Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (Germany)

Vertical / Commodity Committees

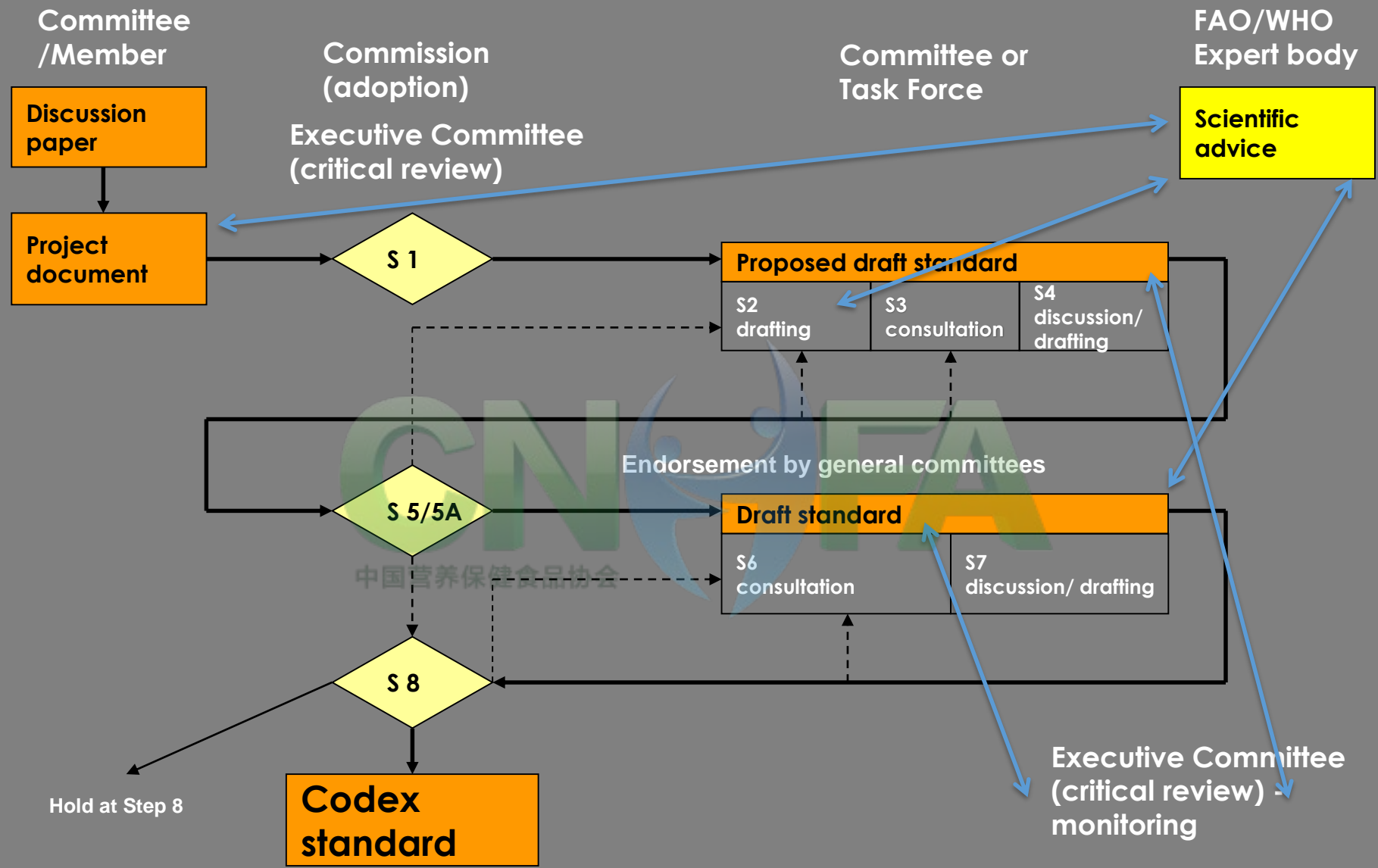
Active	Adjourned <i>sine die</i>
Fats and Oils (Malaysia)	Cocoa Products and Chocolate (Switzerland)
Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (United States)	Meat Hygiene (New Zealand)
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Mexico)	Natural Mineral Waters (Switzerland)
Processed Fruits and Vegetables (United States)	Vegetable Proteins (Canada)
Spices and Culinary Herbs (India)	Fish and Fishery Products (Norway)
Sugars (Colombia)	Milk and Milk Products (New Zealand)

Ad-hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces

Active	
Antimicrobial Resistance (Republic of Korea)	
Dissolved	
Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods (Thailand)	Animal Feeding (Switzerland)
Fruit Juices (Brazil)	Foods Derived from Biotechnology (Japan)

FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees

14 Africa (Kenya)	Introduction to Codex	Asia (India)	Europe (Netherlands)	Latin America and the Caribbean (Chile)	North America and South West Pacific (Vanuatu)	23 Near East (Iran)
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Codex Secretariat

8 professionals

5 general service

2 seconded officers (Japan and ROK)

1 APO (Germany)

5 consultants

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Codex secretariat budget

50% - 8.8 mio USD (80% FAO and 20% WHO)

50% - Codex Host Governments

+not counting scientific advice

China hosts CCPR (Pesticide residues) and
CCFA (Food additives)

Codex achievements

Commodity standards 221

Guidelines 78

Codes of practice 52

Contaminants 106

Additives 4130

Pesticide residues 5231

Veterinary drugs residues 623

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Codex and SDGs

1: No Poverty

Adopting global food safety standards helps local traders access new markets and increase their trade.



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2: Zero Hunger

There can be no food security without food safety and fair trade practices.



3: Good health and well being

There can be no good health and well being without safe, nutritious and affordable food.





8: Decent work and economic growth

Trade is a vital for economic growth. Fair standards ensure fair trade practices and create opportunities.

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12: Food waste and management of chemicals

Safety, quality and labelling standards can prevent that safe products are thrown away.



17: Partnerships for the SDGs

Leaving no one behind can only be achieved in partnerships!

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Special foods

From Field to Fork
Hunter Gatherer



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For a special purpose – eg nutrient reduction or fortification

For special people – eg infants and young children

Claim to be special – production, nutrition and health claims



Special foods

From Field to Fork
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Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)



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Special foods – CCNFSDU and CCFL

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

- (a) study specific nutritional problems; advise the Commission on general nutrition issues;
- (b) draft general provisions, concerning the nutritional aspects of all foods;
- (c) develop texts for foods for special dietary uses
- (d) consider Provisions on nutritional aspects for inclusion in Codex texts

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

- (a) draft provisions on labelling applicable to all foods;
- (b) to consider draft specific provisions on labelling prepared by Codex Commodity Committees
- (c) to study specific labelling problems assigned to it by the Commission;
- (d) to study problems associated with the advertisement of food with particular reference to claims and misleading descriptions.

CCNFSDU - texts

Infants and children: Statement on Infant Feeding, Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants, Follow-up formula, Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children, Formulated Complementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children, **Advisory Lists of Nutrient Compounds for Use in Foods for Special Dietary Uses** intended for Infants and Young Children, Canned Baby Foods

CCNFSDU - texts

Supplementing food: Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods, Vitamin and Mineral Food Supplements

Special needs: Low-Sodium Content (Including Salt Substitutes), Foods for Persons Intolerant to Gluten, Formula Foods for Use in Very Low Energy Diets for Weight Reduction, Formula Foods for Use in Weight Control Diets

Labeling: Advice to the CCFL

CCNFSDU – current work

Ongoing work: Follow-up formula, Claim for “free of trans-fatty acids, definition for biofortification, NRV-NCD for EPA and DHA, Ready-to-use therapeutic foodstechnological justification for food additives

Discussion: , NRV-R for older infants and young children, Harmonized probiotic guidelines, guidelines to establish nutritional profiles

CCFL - texts

General standards:

Labelling of Prepackaged Foods,

Labelling of and Claims for Prepackaged Foods for Special Dietary

Uses

Guidelines: Claims, Nutrition Labelling, Use of Nutrition and Health Claims, Use of the Term "Halal", Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods, Compilation of Codex texts relevant to the labelling of foods derived from modern biotechnology

CCFL – current work

Just finished: Date marking

Ongoing: Labelling of non-retail containers, front-of-pack labelling,

Discussions: Internet sales/e-commerce, allergen labelling, innovation in food labelling, labelling of alcoholic beverages, criteria for the definition of “high in” (fats, sugars and sodium), multipack formats

Challenges to standard setting

Does the fact that Codex set a standard for a product promote these products or their use?

Do safe products need to be specially labeled because of their production method?

Should all that is safe to use be allowed to use?

Should Codex set standards for products that are NOT needed?

Does the fact that products are on the market justify having a Codex standard?

Should Codex set standards for potentially harmful products?

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Challenges to standard setting - examples

Green oranges

Labeling of GM food

Growth promoters (RBST, Ractopamine, Zilpaterol)

Food additives

Truthful but misleading Labeling

Follow up formula

Processed cheese

Makgeolli



Green Oranges

Maybe green but ripe

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Zilpaterol

- Risk assessment completed
- No consensus because of other considerations
- Does Codex setting an MRL use of a product?
- What should Codex do?
- Hours of discussion time (ab-)used



Colorful food



Food with colour

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Colorful food

Hygiene – SPS

Size – TBT

Label – TBT

Residues - SPS



Food with colour

... the same +

GFSA (tables) -
safe maximum limit

SPS

GFSA (Preamble) –
not mislead consumers

TBT



Truthful but misleading?

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Water
Sorbitol
 Vegetable gum
Natural flavours
 Salt
Citric acid
 Caramel colour
Preservatives
 Sweetener
 =
Water + Additives



Different products for infants and young children

Infant formula

Covered by Standard for Infant Formula (CXS 72-1981)



Follow-up formula (Currently under discussion)

Follow-up formula for older infants & [Name of Product] for young children

The future

Successes

Principles of food hygiene (HACCP)/ Milk Hygiene

Food labeling system

Contaminant prevention and maximum limits

Risk analysis (General, Biotec, AMR)

Nutrition and foods for special uses

World food safety day

Inclusiveness - bringing people together – create networks

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Issues

Is Codex setting the right standards in the right way?

Vertical vs horizontal standards

Codex “quality” standards = organized food waste?

Big “Codex cathedrals” still unfinished: GSFA, pesticide MRLs

Slow in addressing new issues and finishing old

Motivate governments to actually use Codex standards

Sometimes difficult consensus

How much time to spend before voting or stop work?



Change is a thing we can count on ...

More people, **Climate**, More countries trading,
New products and production methods,
Changed consumer awareness/demands,
New sales channels – e-platforms, New diseases,
Food fraud, AMR

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Conclusions

There is a lot to do to achieve safe, tasty, nutritious food in every home all the time!

Standards are a tool to avoid misleading consumers and ensure safety and fair practices

Codex is a good international standard setting tool but it can only be as good as the use members make of it

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