



Report of the U.S. Delegate, 36th Session, Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

The 36th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) met in South Kuta, Bali, Indonesia from November 24-28, 2014. Dr. Pia Noble of Germany, Head of the Division of Specific Foods, Food Supplements and Food Additives, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, chaired the Session.

Mr. Bernhard Kühnle, Director General of Food Safety and Animal Health, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Germany, and Dr. Roy A. Sparringa, Chairman of the National Agency for Food and Drug Control, Republic of Indonesia, opened the Session and welcomed participants. The 36th Session was attended by 299 delegates, representing 54 Member Countries, 1 Member Organization (the European Union) and 25 International Observer Organizations. The United States was represented by Delegate Dr. Paula Trumbo, U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Alternate Delegate Dr. Pamela Pehrsson, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; three governmental advisors and two non-governmental advisors.

The following summarizes discussions and developments at the session. The full official report of the 36th CCNFSDU Session can be found in REP15/NFSDU on the Codex web site: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/>.

Overall, the United States achieved its principle objectives for the session, including Committee approval of Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs) for potassium as proposed by a U.S.-led working group, deferral of consideration of claims for trans-fatty acids due to lack of an appropriate method to verify such claims, and clarification of an existing Codex standard to replace an inappropriate reference to a trademark name with its generic name equivalent. The U.S. was also successful in ensuring that the scope of new work on the definition of "biofortification" remained within the appropriate mandate and terms of reference of CCNFSDU.

CCNFSDU Recommendations to the 38th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (2015)

- After resolving issues related to text that was bracketed for discussion at this session, the Committee agreed to advance the proposed draft revision of the *General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods* (CAC/GL 9-1987) to Step 8 for final adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) at its 38th Session in July, 2015.

Among other revisions, the Committee agreed on a modified definition for voluntary nutrient addition, which reads:

"Voluntary nutrient addition is when food manufacturers choose to add specified essential nutrients to particular foods or food categories as explained in footnote 4." (Footnote 4 provides illustrative examples of voluntary nutrient addition schemes.)"

- The Committee decided not to accept language proposed by the delegation of Norway to discourage nutrient addition to energy-dense and nutrient poor foods unless nutritionally justified to meet public health goals. The Committee decided against including this proposed language since the *General Principles* already allow national authorities to decide which additions of essential nutrients were acceptable. The Delegations of Bangladesh, Brazil, Norway and South Africa and two Observer organizations recorded reservations to the Committee's decision not to include the proposed language.
- The Committee agreed to advance new and revised Nutritional Reference Values (NRVs-R) for vitamin C, zinc (and its dietary description), selenium, molybdenum and manganese, as well as amendments to the *General Principles for Establishing Nutrient Reference Values for the General Population* (Paragraph 3.2.1.1), for final adoption by the CAC at Step 5/8 and inclusion of these updated NRVs-R in the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985).
- The Committee agreed to advance a new NRV-NCD for potassium in the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985) for final adoption by the CAC at Step 5/8.
- The Committee agreed to a number of changes in the list of food additives in the *Codex Infant Formula Standard* (STAN 72-1981): (1) to include INS 472c (citric and fatty acid esters of glycerol (CITREM)) in parts A and B, and INS 1450 (octenyl succinic acid (OSA)-modified starch (starch sodium octenyl succinate)) in part 4, section A, for hydrolyzed protein and/or amino acid based infant formula; and (2) to remove vitamin E concentrate (INS 306), gamma tocopherol (INS 308), delta tocopherol (INS 309), sodium carboxymethylcellulose (INS 466), and mono-and



diglycerides (INS 471). The European Union and Norway recorded reservations to including INS 1450 in the standard.

- The Committee endorsed the inclusion of zinc citrate in the *Advisory Lists of Nutrient Compounds for Use in Foods for Special Dietary Uses Intended for Infants and Young children* (CAC/GL 10–1979).

Ongoing Work

- The Committee agreed to continue work to consider revising or adding NRVs-R for vitamin A, vitamin D, vitamin E, magnesium, phosphorus, chromium, copper, chloride, and iron, in accordance with the revised working definition of a Recognized Authoritative Scientific Body (“RASB”) and General Principles for establishing NRVs for the general population. Australia will chair the electronic working group on revising these NRV-s-Rs. The Committee and the electronic working group will also consider how to establish NRVs-R for children aged 6-36 months for the nutrients for which NRVs-R are established for the general population.
- The Committee agreed to continue an electronic working group to review and revise, where necessary, the current *Codex Standard for Follow-Up Formula* (STAN 156-1987). The group will review the compositional requirements of this standard for children 6-36 months of age with a point of differentiation at 12 months, for consideration at the next session. New Zealand will lead the electronic working group and physical working group scheduled prior to the next CCNFSDU session, with France and Indonesia as co-chairs.
- The Committee agreed to continue reviewing the list of food additives in the *Infant Formula Standard* (STAN 72-1981). The Committee will request the Codex Committee on Food Additives to give priority to reviewing this list of food additives for purposes of alignment with the *General Standard for Food Additives* (STAN 192-1995).

Proposal to Discontinue Work

- The Committee agreed to discontinue work on the *Proposed Draft Amendment of the Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children* (Codex Stan 74-1981) to include a new part B for underweight children since the lead of the electronic working group, Delegation of India, reported that there was no consensus on the definition of scope.

Proposals for New Work and Future Consideration

- The Committee agreed to a proposal to start new work to define biofortification or biofortified foods. If approved as new work by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Zimbabwe and South Africa will chair an electronic working group to develop a proposed draft definition of biofortification. The United States intends to participate in this electronic working group to ensure that CCNFSDU appropriately describes the different methods of production for biofortified foods in formulating a definition of biofortification.
- The Committee agreed to establish an NRV-NCD for eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA). If approved as new work by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, an electronic working group will be formed to propose an NRV-NCD for EPA and DHA. Chile and the Russian Federation volunteered to chair this electronic working group and agreed to work in Spanish and English.
- The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) observer, with support from Senegal, will revise the discussion paper on standards for ready-to-use foods for consideration at the next session. The discussion paper will be revised first to consider the results of the pending World Health Organization (WHO) report of a systematic review of the effectiveness and safety of formulations based on the nutrient composition of ready-to-use foods, and second, to address concerns expressed at this CCNFSDU session, which included interventions that advocated the importance of incorporating local foods and food products as ingredients and developing a guideline instead of a standard on ready-to-use foods.

CCNFSDU Referrals to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

The Committee requested CCMAS to identify a method that can be used to quantify *trans* fatty acids in foods, before the Committee considers setting a potential nutrient content claim for “free” *trans* fatty acids. CCNFSDU is also awaiting the results of the WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) guidance on conditions for claims on *trans* fatty acids.

CCNFSDU also requested that CCMAS consider the following topics:

- Request CCMAS to endorse AACCI 32-45 as the Type I method for total dietary fiber and adopt AACCI 32-50 as the Type I method for the insoluble and soluble parts of dietary fiber (which can be summed up to total dietary fiber) as they have different scopes and are collaboratively studied and designed to match the CODEX definition.



- Request CCMAS to review whether AOAC 2009.01 should be considered as a Type IV method for total fiber because it has been modified. The modified method has not been collaboratively studied and is no longer considered equivalent to AACCI 32-45.
- Request CCMAS adopt AOAC 2011.25 as a Type IV method for total fiber because it has been modified. The modified method has not been collaboratively studied and is no longer considered equivalent to AACCI 32-50.
- Seek advice from CCMAS on a method that accurately detects the toxic fraction in gluten harmful for individuals intolerant to gluten (ELISA G12 method) for CODEX STAN 118-1979.

Other Business

At the request of the United States, and with support from the European Union, the Committee agreed to amend the *Standard for Foods for Special Dietary Use for Persons Intolerant to Gluten* (Codex STAN 118 – 1979) to include the term “khorasan wheat” and identify the trademarked product, Kamut, which is already listed in the standard, as an example of khorasan wheat.

Date and Place of the Next Session

The 37th Session is tentatively scheduled for 23 to 27 November 2015 in Bad Soden am Taunus, Germany, with final arrangements subject to confirmation by Germany as host country and the Codex Secretariat.