

50th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)
(12-16 November, 2018 Panama City, Panama)



The Session was attended by delegates from 53 member countries (including India) and one member organisation and 13 observer organisations.

The Committee had [12 agenda items](#) for discussion, including three proposed draft standards at Step 4 of the Codex Step Procedure for elaboration of standards, for discussion in the session.

Decisions on the important agenda items concerning to India, are as follows:-

- **Proposed Draft Revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1-1969) and its HACCP Annex (at step 4):** - The outcome of the Electronic Working Group (EWG), led by United Kingdom and co-chaired by France, Ghana, India, Mexico and the United States of America, was discussed in the committee along with highlighted eight questions in the outcome report except questions relating to the ‘Comparison Table’, ‘Water Section’ and the ‘Decision Tree’. On basis of extensive discussions, committee noted that the document needs more work/revision in its development, the Committee finally agreed to return it to Step 2 and established a EWG chaired by United Kingdom with the TOR to review and revise the texts, excluding the texts agreed by CCFH50. India will continue to work on the document as a co-chair.
- **Proposed draft Code of Practice on Food Allergen Management for Food Business Operators (at step 4):** - The outcome of the Electronic Working Group (EWG), led by Australia and co-chaired by the United Kingdom and the United States of America was considered. Among others, the main issues discussed in the committee were related to thresholds for allergens, risk assessment methodologies, and the use of the term ‘precautionary allergen labelling’. The Committee agreed to forward the proposed draft code for adoption by the 42nd Session of the Codex Alimentarius (CAC42) in July 2019 at Step 5 and to seek the advice of CCFL on the following;
 - a. the appropriateness of the use of a precautionary allergen labelling statement and the related definition;
 - b. the list of foods which cause allergic reactions
 - c. request FAO/WHO convene an expert consultation to provide scientific advice. Term of Reference has also been recommended by the committee and endorsed in the committee report.

- **Proposed draft Guidance for the Management of (Micro) Biological Foodborne Crises/Outbreaks (at step 4):** - The outcome of the Electronic Working Group (EWG), led by Denmark and co-chaired by the Chile and EU was considered. Due to paucity of time, the document was not discussed in detail and noted that redrafting is required considering all the comments submitted by member countries. However, Committee agreed to limit the scope to foodborne outbreaks, and to delete the term “crises” in the title. Further, based on existing two definition of foodborne outbreak, committee revised the definition. Thereafter, Committee agreed to return the proposal to Step 2 for redrafting and established an EWG, chaired by Denmark and co-chaired by Chile and the European Union. India will continue to work on the document as a EWG member
- **Forward workplan:** - The Committee agreed to set up a drafting group to take up work on principles for the safe use of water in food processing and prepare a proposal for consideration by the Committee. The drafting group will be led by Honduras and includes **India**, Chile, Denmark and EU as the members.