

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH51) held in Cleveland, Ohio

United States of America (04th to 08th November 2019)



The 51st Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) was held from 04th to 08th November 2019 at Cleveland, Ohio, US. The session was attended by delegates representing 59 member countries, observers from 15 governmental, non-governmental international organizations, and 1 member organizations.

The Committee had 10 agenda items for discussion. The agenda of the meeting is available at <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/meeting=CCFH&session=51>.

CCFH51 met some of the **India's** key objectives for the meeting. **India** as one of the co-chair completed the work on updating the General Principles of Food Hygiene (Agenda 6) for Food Business Operators and forwarded them for final adoption at the next session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC43, July 2020). **India** had played a leading role in drafting and achieving consensus on this document, in line with our commitment to science-based decision-making.

Some agenda items of interest to India along with Committee's decision are as follow:

- Agreed to forward the draft Code of Practice on Food Allergen Management for Food Business Operators to the 43rd session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC43) for final adoption at Step 8, with an understanding that revision of the list of allergens and work on precautionary labeling would be resumed when new information and scientific advice become available from the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) and FAO/WHO, respectively.

- Agreed to forward the revised General Principles of Food Hygiene (including the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Annex) to CAC43 for final adoption at Step 5/8, without Diagram 3 (Example of Decision Tree to Identify Critical Control Points (CCPs)). Work on the decision tree will continue and will reflect the final text as adopted by the CAC.
- Agreed to forward the draft Guidance for the Management of Biological Foodborne Outbreaks to CAC43 for adoption at Step 5, which will allow for another round of review and comment, with the understanding that CCFH will keep working on the Annexes at its next session (CCFH52, 2020). Consistent with past practice, the committee agreed to remove the list of references, since the key concepts were incorporated into the Guidance itself.
- Agreed to re-establish an electronic working group (EWG), chaired by Chile and co- chaired by France, New Zealand, and the United States, to revise the draft Guidelines for the Control of Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli (STEC) in Raw Beef, Fresh Leafy Vegetables, Raw Milk and Raw Milk Cheese, and Sprouts.
- Approved new work and agreed to establish an EWG, chaired by the Honduras and co- chaired by Chile, Denmark, the EU and **India**, to prepare draft Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production, for consideration at CCFH52 (pending acceptance of the new work by CAC43).