

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2

**CX/FBT 07/7/2
July 2007**

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON FOODS DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY

Seventh Session

Chiba, Japan, 24 – 28 September 2007

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE TASK FORCE BY THE COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 30TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

1. The Commission approved the following proposals for new work to elaborate Proposed Draft Annex to the Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants on Low-level Presence of Recombinant-DNA Plant Material (Job Code: N07-2007)¹.

B. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Samplings²

2. The 28th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling in March 2007 considered a new revised document on the criteria for the detection and identification of foods derived from biotechnology, including: i) the information required for the validation of quantitative and qualitative methods, ii) the characteristics that could be used to consider existing validated methods; iii) issues related to measurement uncertainty and interpretation of the results; and iv) proficiency testing.

3. After some discussion, the Committee agreed that the electronic working led by the Delegations of Germany and the United Kingdom would revise the current document and, in addition, would give consideration to the development of guidelines for governments and prepare a project document as a proposal for new work. It was further agreed to establish a physical working group to be hosted by Germany that would meet inter-session, if necessary.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling³

4. The 35th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling in May 2007 discussed the Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Labelling of Foods and Food Ingredients Obtained Through Certain Techniques of Genetic Modification/Genetic Engineering: Labelling Provisions and could not come to a consensus on how to proceed with the development of the text.

¹ ALINORM 07/30/41, paras 108-109 and Appendix VII

² ALINORM 07/30/23

³ ALINORM 07/30/22

5. After some discussion, the Committee agreed to establish a physical working group, which would consider the best approach for the Committee to this issue and prepare an outcome document in accordance with the approach chosen. It was agreed that the physical working group would take place in Ghana in early 2008. The Committee agreed to retain the texts at the current steps, for further consideration at the next session taking into account the outcome of the physical working group.