Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

Last Meeting: 43rd Session Virtual 24-26 September,12 & 19 October 2020

Full Report of the 43rd Session – **Link to Report & Agenda**

Next Meeting: 44th Session TBA

New Zealand attended the 43rd session of the CAC. Main outcomes of importance to NZ were:

The first ever virtual session of the CAC was held on 24 September 2020. Further virtual sessions of CAC43 were held in September and October with report writing sessions in November 2020 (NZ timing around 11pm to 2am).

At their peak, some sessions had more than 650 participants from member countries and observer organizations.

The Codex Secretariat confirmed to CAC43 that the outlook for an early return to physical meetings remains uncertain.

Given the circumstances the Secretariat has commenced planning and preparation for scheduling meetings through much of 2021.

Where meetings cannot be held physically, virtual meetings will occur subject to the necessary approval from the host country, the Codex membership, the Codex Secretariat, and FAO and WHO.

The progression of key standards of interest to New Zealand was as follows:

The following standards received final adoption at CAC43:

- Standard for kiwifruit ("extra" class).
- Code of Practice on food allergen management for food business operators.
- Revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene and annex on HACCP.
- The first Regional Standard for Kava. New Zealand has been instrumental in progressing this standard which is particularly important in the small island states of the Pacific and beyond.

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The following standards were accepted at Step 5:

- Review of the Standard for Follow-up-Formula (FUF): Section B Proposed draft scope, definition and labelling (with the ended deadline for completion moved to 2022).
- Guidelines for ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF).
- Revision of the Code of Practice to Minimise and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). (Noting the work co-chaired by New Zealand on the Guidelines on Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne AMR is expected to be completed at the next scheduled meeting of the Task Force in June 2021).
- The Regional Standard for Fermented noni-fruit juice (again New Zealand has been instrumental in progressing this standard that is important to the Pacific region).

New work to approve priority lists of pesticides for evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) in 2021 was approved.

CAC43 also approved proposed new work on 'guidelines for the safe use and reuse of water in food production'. The papers for CAC43 (including the draft report) can be accessed on the Codex website here.

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