Report of the United States Delegate
13th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods

April 29-May 3, 2019
Yogyakarta, Indonesia

The 13th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF13) was a productive session, with multiple maximum levels (MLs), Codes of Practice (COP), and Guidelines sent forward for adoption or endorsement by the 42nd Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC42, July 2019), consistent with U.S. positions and comments. Notably, the committee recommended final adoption of draft MLs for lead in a number of foods (work chaired by the United States); recommended final adoption of the draft COP for the Reduction of 3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol esters (3-MCPDE) and glycidyl esters (GE) in Refined Oils and Food Products made with Refined Oils (work chaired by the United States and co-chaired by the European Union and Malaysia); recommended adoption of draft Guidelines for Rapid Risk Analysis Following Instances of Detection of Contaminants in Food where there is No Regulatory Level (work chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by the Netherlands); and approved a project document for new work on revising the COP for Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Foods (work chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Japan and the United Kingdom).

CCCF13 was attended by 45 Member Countries, 1 Member Organization (the European Union/EU), and 18 observer organizations. The U.S. Delegation was led by Dr. Lauren Posnick Robin (Head of Delegation) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition; and Mr. Terry Dutko (Alternate Delegate) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service. The U.S. Delegation also included five government advisors and one non-government advisor.

The following represents the summary of the most significant agenda items and issues from the 13th Session. The full report of the Session can be found on the Codex website: www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCCF&session=13.

Highlights

Texts for Final Adoption at CAC42:

The committee sent the following draft COP and Guidelines to CAC42 for adoption at Step 8 (final adoption):

- Draft COP for the Reduction of 3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol esters (3-MCPDE) and glycidyl esters (GE) in Refined Oils and food products made with refined oils; and
- Draft Guidelines for rapid risk analysis following instances of detection of contaminants in food where there is no regulatory level.

The committee sent the following draft MLs and COPs to CAC42 for adoption at Step 5/8 (final adoption):

- Draft MLs for lead in wine and edible offal in the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (GSCTFF) (work chaired by the United States); and
- Draft ML for cadmium in chocolate products containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis.

Ongoing and new work

The committee also agreed to continue or start work on the following for CCCF14:

- A new discussion paper, chaired by the EU and co-chaired by Japan, on radioactivity in feed and food;
- Work chaired by Ecuador, and co-chaired by Ghana, on MLs for cadmium in chocolate and chocolate products containing or declaring ≥30 % to <50 % total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis; and cocoa powder (100 % total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis);
- Work chaired by Brazil on proposed draft MLs for lead in food for infants and young children (except for those for which an ML has been established in the GSCTFF), spices and aromatic herbs, eggs; and sugars and confectionery, excluding cocoa;
- A revised discussion paper on lead and cadmium in quinoa by the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) Secretariat with the assistance of the Codex Secretariat;
- Work chaired by the United States, and co-chaired by Japan and the United Kingdom (UK), on revision of the COP for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods;
- Work chaired by Peru, and co-chaired by Ghana and Ecuador, on a draft COP for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa;
- A revised discussion paper, chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Canada, on MLs for methylmercury for additional fish species;
- Discussion papers, chaired by Nigeria and co-chaired by Ghana, on fermented cassava products, including mitigation measures to support development of a COP for prevention and reduction of mycotoxins in cassava and cassava products;
- Work chaired by Brazil, and co-chaired by India, on proposed draft MLs for total aflatoxins in maize grain destined for further processing and flour, meal, semolina and flakes derived from maize; husked and polished rice; cereal-based food for infants and young children; and sorghum;
- Work chaired by the EU, and co-chaired by Japan, the Netherlands, and the United States, on general guidance on data analysis for ML development and improved data collection; and
- Work on a forward work plan for CCCF:
    - Identification of key staple food/contaminant combinations by the Netherlands and the JECFA and Codex Secretariats;
    - An approach to identify the need for review of existing CCCF standards that may need revision, chaired by Canada and co-chaired by Japan and the United States; and
    - Pilot project on evaluation of implementation of COPs by the Netherlands, Codex and

JECFA Secretariats with assistance of the EU, Kenya, Senegal, and the United States.

Meeting Summary

Matters Referred to the Committee by the Codex Alimentarius Committee and/or its Subsidiary Bodies (Agenda Item 2)

MLs for total aflatoxins (AFT) in ready-to-eat (RTE) peanuts and associated sampling plans

The Codex Secretariat introduced the recommendation from the 75th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC75) to accelerate finalizing the ML and sampling plan for AFT in RTE peanuts and reminded that the ML was still in the step process at Step 4.

India supported accelerating the finalization of the ML, noting the decision on setting an ML for AFT in RTE peanuts at 10 µg/kg could not be agreed upon at CCCF10 and that the proposal had again been put on hold at CCCF12 (2018) due to lack of implementation of the *Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts* (CXC 55-2004), even after the JECFA evaluation in 2016. India highlighted that CXC 55-2004 had been adopted in 2004; JECFA, in 2016, conducted a dietary impact analysis at hypothetical MLs of 4, 8, or 10 µg/kg; additional data for AFT in RTE peanuts had been generated from April 2018 to March 2019; and postponing the adoption of the ML might have further trade impediments for RTE peanuts for developing countries. India stated that it was not satisfied with the statement that the COP was not implemented, that India had submitted a significant number of data points on RTE peanuts, which showed that anything above 10 µg/kg would be acceptable, and thereafter made a reservation.

There was general support for maintaining the decision by CCCF12 to hold the ML of 10 µg/kg for AFT in RTE peanuts at Step 4 to ensure effective implementation of CXC 55-2004. The committee agreed to:

- Urge members to extensively implement CXC 55-2004;
- Collect and submit new data for further consideration; and
- Re-establish an electronic working group (EWG) at CCCF14 (2020) to work on the new data and prepare a proposal for consideration by CCCF15 (2021).

Matters of Interest Arising from Other International Organizations (Agenda Item 4)

The Joint FAO/International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture

IAEA representatives introduced a proposal for exploring work on radionuclides in food and feed in non-emergency situations, which would provide guidance to food safety authorities and

increase understanding of radioactivity in food and related food safety and trade issues.

The committee agreed to establish an electronic working group (EWG), chaired by the EU and co-chaired by Japan, to prepare a discussion paper on radioactivity in feed and food in normal circumstances that would enable CCCF14 to take an informed decision on possible follow-up actions in 2020.

Proposed Draft Revision of the Maximum Levels for Lead in Selected Commodities in the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (CXS 193-1995) (Agenda Item 5)

The United States has chaired work reviewing MLs for lead in selected commodities in the GSCTFF since 2012. As chair, the United States presented the recommendations of the EWG.

- Wine: The EWG proposed a revised ML of 0.05 mg/kg or 0.1 mg/kg. The United States, Canada, and Kenya supported 0.05 mg/kg, but did not object to 0.1 mg/kg. The EU, Brazil, Australia, Japan, and the Organization International de la Vigne et du Vin (OIV) supported 0.1 mg/kg. India supported 0.15 mg/kg and indicated that its data demonstrated a 12.5% rejection rate at 0.1 mg/kg and 50% rejection rate at 0.05 mg/kg. During the report adoption, the United States, noted that the data cited by India was not available to the EWG for development of the agenda item. The committee agreed to lower the ML from 0.2 mg/kg to 0.1 mg/kg for wines made from grapes harvested after the date of the adoption of the ML by CAC42.
- Fortified / liqueur wines: The EWG proposed and the committee agreed to establish an ML of 0.15 mg/kg for fortified/liqueur wines made from grapes harvested after the date of the adoption of the ML by CAC42.
- The committee further agreed to retain the ML of 0.2 mg/kg for wines made from grapes harvested before the date of the adoption of the revised ML of 0.1 mg/kg by CAC42 to continue to provide an international reference for the trade of these wines. Consequently, GSCTFF will be amended as follows: the category will be wine (wine and fortified/liqueur wine) with the note/remark: The ML applies to wines and fortified/liqueur wines made from grapes harvested before CAC42.
- Edible offal. The EWG proposed revised MLs for edible offal of cattle at 0.15 mg/kg, edible offal of pig at 0.15 mg/kg, and edible offal of poultry at 0.1 mg/kg. Nigeria, Kenya, Japan, the EU, and Canada supported the proposals of the EWG. Brazil, supported by Peru, noted that it could support the proposed revised MLs for poultry and pig, but supported 0.2 mg/kg for cattle because cattle are long-lived. The United States supported Brazil's proposal since the violation rates were comparable for the three offal types. Australia did not favor lowering any offal MLs from 0.5 mg/kg without considering data more representative of international production and clearer justification of health benefits. The committee agreed to lower the MLs for edible offal as follows:
    - Cattle: from 0.5 mg/kg to 0.2 mg/kg
    - Pig: from 0.5 mg/kg to 0.15 mg/kg
    - Poultry: from 0.5 mg/kg to 0.1 mg/kg

Proposed draft Maximum Levels for Cadmium in Chocolate and Cocoa-derived Products (Agenda Item 6)

Ecuador, as chair of the EWG, reported that there was no consensus on the proposed MLs (CX/CF 19/13/6, Appendix I) in the EWG and offered various options for consideration, including postponing the establishment of MLs for the remaining chocolate categories.

After extensive discussion and noting the lack of consensus for postponing establishment of MLs for the remaining categories, CCCF considered a proposal from Brazil to use a proportional basis for determining the MLs of 0.8 mg/kg (≥50% to <70% total cocoa solids) and 0.9 mg/kg (≥70% total cocoa solids) as follows:

- For chocolate products with <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis: 0.3 mg/kg
- For chocolate and chocolate products with ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis: 0.5 mg/kg
- For cocoa powder (100% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis): 1.5 mg/kg

Peru, Brazil, Canada, Chile, the United States, Indonesia, Argentina, and the International Confectionery Association supported a proportional approach based on these values or slightly different values, while the EU could not support the approach because a more conservative guidance value was in place in the EU.

After further discussion, the committee agreed:

- To advance the ML of 0.3 mg/kg for chocolate products containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solid on a dry matter basis for final adoption at Step 5/8 by CAC42. The EU, supported by Norway and the Russian Federation, recorded reservations to this decision, citing the EU guidance value. Ecuador also recorded its reservation because the ML was too low and would result in high rejection rates for products from the Latin American and Caribbean region.
- To continue work on MLs for chocolate and chocolate products with ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids and for cocoa powder, using a proportional approach, while allowing some flexibility to avoid very high rejection rates. If no consensus is reached at CCCF14, the work will be discontinued until the COP for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa is finalized and implemented.

Proposed draft Code of Practice for the Reduction of 3-MCPDE and GE in Refined Oils and Food Products made with Refined Oils (Agenda Item 7)

The United States, as Chair of the EWG, presented a revised document based on comments in reply to CL 2019/09, Aside from editorial amendments, revisions included modifications of various aspects (e.g., clarifying the process of glycidyl ester formation, stating that physical refining occurs at higher temperatures than chemical refining, adding explanatory texts such as on the handling/disposal of water/alcohol mixtures). At plenary, members recommended further changes such as retaining a non-exhaustive list of foods that could contain these esters, including infant formula, and removing language on levels of these esters historically being

higher in palm oil. The committee received supported for revised draft COP, particularly from the delegations of Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Global Organization for EPA and DHA Omega-3s (GOED), and the International Special Dietary Foods Industries (ISDI). Uganda requested advice at the household level, but FAO responded that this should be addressed at the national level. After further consideration of the revised COP, the committee agreed to forward the revised COP to CAC42 for final adoption at Step 8.

Proposed draft maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plans (Agenda Item 8)

The committee noted that this item was not for discussion and recalled its discussion on this matter under Matters Referred to the Committee by the Codex Alimentarius Committee and/or its Subsidiary Bodies.

Proposed draft maximum level for AFT and ochratoxin A in nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric and associated sampling plans (Agenda Item 9)

The committee noted that this agenda item was not for discussion according to the decision of CCCF12 to hold these MLs at Step 4 to ensure the implementation of the *Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Mycotoxins in Spices* (CXC 78-2017) and to generate data to enable progress in the consideration of the MLs for mycotoxins in spices by a future CCCF.

Draft Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Instances of Contaminants in Food where there is no Regulatory Level or Risk Management Framework (Agenda Item 10)

New Zealand, as chair of the EWG and physical working group (PWG), explained that the PWG had broad agreement on the guidelines' principles and noted that discussion had focused on four technical themes: title, scope, terminology and characteristics of the cut-off value; and ordering the process steps in the decision tree. The United States requested removal of a footnote to a European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) document, which was then replaced by a reference with a relevant JECFA publication. After making additional editorial changes, CCCF agreed to advance the guidelines for endorsement. Indonesia, however, stated the need to review the document for another year, as in their view the Guidelines could potentially cause disruption to international trade because of different understandings and technical capacities among countries to implement the threshold of toxicological concern (TTC), especially considering individual countries' laboratory capacity to test at 1 ug/kg (the cut-off value below which no risk management measures are required). After further discussion, the committee concluded with advancing the draft Guidelines to Step 8 for final adoption by CAC42.

Discussion Paper on the Establishment of New Maximum Levels for Lead in Commodities According to a Prioritization Approach (Agenda Item 11)

Brazil, as chair of the EWG, explained that the aim of the work was to identify for which food categories to establish MLs. A three-step process was used, which steps included: identification

of food categories, prioritization of identified food categories based on exposure assessment, and consideration on trade volumes. CCCF supported the work but limited the scope of the given the large number of foods considered.

The committee agreed to focus on:

- Food for infants and young children (except those for which an ML has already been established in the GSCTFF);
- Spices and aromatic herbs;
- Eggs; and
- Sugars and confectionery, excluding cocoa.

The committee will submit a revised project document to CAC42 for approval as new work, chaired by Brazil, to propose draft MLs for comments and consideration at CCCF14.

Discussion paper on Lead and Cadmium in Quinoa (Agenda Item 12)

The JECFA Secretariat explained that, based on a literature search and review of data in the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS)/Food, available occurrence data on cadmium and lead in quinoa or other pseudo-cereals are limited. The JECFA Secretariat proposed that the CCCF could (1) consider a data call for occurrence data for a discussion paper for the next meeting or (2) consider using data from other plants and extrapolate to establish MLs for quinoa and other relevant pseudo-cereals. The Codex Secretariat supported extrapolation from other grains, an approach used by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR); however, several members expressed the view that this approach should not be applied to contaminants. CCCF generally agreed that it would be more appropriate to base MLs on data from quinoa and other pseudo-cereals. The EU noted that a collection of data for quinoa was underway in the EU.

The committee agreed that JECFA would issue a call for data for cadmium and lead in quinoa through GEMS/Food; and based on the information collected, the JECFA Secretariat, with the assistance of the Codex Secretariat, would finalize a paper for consideration by CCCF14.

Discussion Paper on Revision of the *Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Foods* (CXC 56-2004) (Agenda Item 13)

The United States, as chair of the EWG, discussed the aim of the paper which was to provide additional, updated information on sources of lead in food and measures for reducing lead in food that have become available since the publication of the COP.

The committee agreed that there was sufficient additional information available to justify revisions to the COP, to submit the project document to CAC42 for approval as new work, and to establish an EWG, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Japan and the UK, to prepare a revised version of the COP for comments and consideration at CCCF14.

Discussion Paper on the Development of a Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in Cocoa (Agenda Item 14)

Peru, as chair of the EWG, indicated that risk management measures currently available support the development of a COP during primary production and post-harvest, i.e., fermentation, drying, and storage processes. Manufacturing/processing practices that can effectively reduce cadmium levels in processed products (e.g., chocolates) will be excluded in the scope of the COP as they are not yet readily available.

Noting there was wide support for the development of the COP, the committee agreed to submit the project document, as edited during plenary, to CAC42 for approval as new work and to establish an EWG, chaired by Peru and co-chaired by Ghana and Ecuador, to prepare a draft COP for comments and consideration at CCCF14.

Discussion paper on the Establishment of Maximum Levels for Methylmercury in Additional Fish Species (Agenda Item 15)

New Zealand, as chair of the EWG, reminded the committee that with the agreement on MLs for tuna, alfonsino, marlin, and shark at CCCF12, there was an established framework to apply an as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) approach in setting MLs for methylmercury in fish. For future ML development, data on both methylmercury and total mercury would need to be available, as it could not always be assumed that total mercury would be mostly present as methylmercury. New Zealand proposed postponing the work until new data became available and a further discussion paper is prepared on the feasibility of developing MLs. New Zealand also proposed that the discussion paper consider amendments to the sampling plan for methylmercury in fish.

The United States, Japan, Ghana, Kenya, and the Russian Federation supported developing a new discussion paper and/or delaying this work, in part because of the lack of methylmercury data. Various delegations raised questions about the data, including data on trade volumes, and the committee agreed that, ideally, data should be submitted for both methylmercury and total mercury (from paired analysis); be from at least two locations in a maritime zone; be from representative fishery areas; and be submitted with binomial names or FAO taxonomic coding.

After further discussion, the committee agreed to request JECFA to issue a call for data, and to re-establish an EWG, chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Canada, to revise the discussion paper based on new data submitted to GEMS/Food and consider whether it is feasible to proceed with setting MLs for additional fish species, and to consider issues related to sampling plans for methylmercury in fish.

Discussion Paper on the Establishment of Maximum Levels for Hydrocyanic Acid (HCN) in Cassava and Cassava-based Products and Occurrence of Mycotoxins in these Products (Agenda Item 16)

MLs for HCN in cassava and cassava-based products

Nigeria, as chair of the EWG, introduced the item and explained that based on data available for preparation of the paper, it was not possible to conclude whether harmonizing the expression of HCN levels could be done (i.e., the current MLs of 2 mg/kg for free HCN in gari and 10 mg/kg for total HCN in cassava flour). Since an ML of 2 mg/kg for free HCN was already established and demonstrated to be protective enough over the years, this ML could be extended to fermented cassava as consumed, especially fufu. The EU questioned whether the data in the paper were for free or total HCN and the possible high rejection rate if the ML for gari were extended to fermented cassava products. In response, Nigeria clarified that fermented cassava products with a high rejection rate were intended for further processing and a reasonable rejection rate would occur after processing. CCCF, however, noted that the paper presented no data on the effect of further processing. Nigeria also stated that 95% of data used did not specify free or total HCN. The JECFA Secretariat recommended first preparing a background document to ascertain the specific data needed before issuing a call for data. The United States requested that JECFA modify the GEMS/Food database to allow submission of data on free versus total HCN and fermented versus non-fermented cassava products.

After further discussion, the committee agreed that an EWG, chaired by Nigeria and co-chaired by Ghana, should prepare a background informative discussion paper on fermented cassava products.

Mycotoxins in fermented cassava products

Nigeria, as the chair of the EWG, explained that mycotoxins, particularly aflatoxins and ochratoxins, are of public health concern in both fermented and unfermented cassava products. Since fungal contamination of cassava products occurs mainly after processing due to poor handling and storage practice and to some extent at pre-harvest, Nigeria recommend that CCCF consider developing a COP for prevention and reduction of mycotoxins in unfermented and fermented cassava and cassava products.

After further discussion, the committee agreed that the EWG, chaired by Nigeria and co-chaired by Ghana, should prepare a discussion paper identifying mitigation measures to support the development of a COP for prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava products.

Discussion paper on the Establishment of Maximum Levels for Total Aflatoxins in Cereals (Wheat, Maize, Sorghum, and Rice), Flour and Cereal-based Foods for Infants and Young Children (Agenda Item 17)

Brazil, as chair of the EWG, presented the aims of the discussion paper which were to establish MLs to reduce AFT intake worldwide and help protect consumer health. The EWG had taken

into account data from 2008 to 2018 and recommended new work on the food categories identified in Paragraph 17 of CX/CF 19/13/15. In addition, the committee should address whether to include rice flour and sorghum and whether to issue a call for data on whole wheat flour to determine whether this should also be included in the new work.

Thailand pointed out that inclusion of outlier data had led to incorrect conclusions for rice. The United States stated that it could support work on some categories, such as maize and maize products, but raised several concerns, such as availability of geographically representative data, which should be considered by commodity; the importance of looking at the health impact of hypothetical MLs, including to determine if similar health impacts can be achieved at lower sample rejection rates; the impact of year-to-year variations in contamination due to climatic factors; practicalities of testing methodology (rapid field tests) used for grain handling and field inspection; and the impact on food security for grain importing regions. Sudan supported the United States, especially relating to health impact analysis. Many delegations supported inclusion of sorghum, and CCCF agreed to include sorghum in the work.

There was extensive discussion on potential application of MLs to rice flour, considering the different types and sources of rice flour. Japan and the EU supported work on rice flour but noted the importance of considering subcategories. Thailand and other delegations pointed out the low impact of rice flour on aflatoxin exposure; and Canada, Thailand, the United States, and Indonesia supported a call for data for rice flour rather than new work.

Canada expressed the view that wheat grain should not be included in the new work at this stage. Brazil proposed to start work with maize and maize products, rice, and cereal-based foods for infants and young children. CCCF noted that it would be important to use geographically representative data for the agreed-on commodities and to undertake an assessment of the health impact of hypothetical MLs before proceeding, including to determine if similar health impacts could be achieved at lower sample rejection rates; that consideration should be given to year-to-year variation; whether the MLs should take into account use of rapid field tests using higher limit of quantitation (LOQ) than laboratory testing; and the impact on food security.

CCCF noted that the work would be quite extensive and agreed (i) to delete wheat grain destined for further processing and flour, meal, semolina, and flakes derived from wheat; exclude whole wheat flour from the list; to amend the project document accordingly; and (ii) to follow a similar approach to the work on lead by first working on the MLs for the agreed categories and, only once this work was completed, to consider the remaining food categories.

The committee agreed to:

- Submit to CAC42 a proposal for new work, chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by India, for developing MLs for consideration at CCCF14 for AFT for the following food categories:
    - Maize grain destined for further processing and flour, meal, semolina and flakes derived from maize;
    - Husked and polished rice;

    - Cereal-based foods for infant and young children; and
    - Sorghum;
- Issue a call for data for submission to GEMS/Food on rice flour (including information on the rice source), whole wheat flour, and parboiled rice to better assess whether these food categories should be added later.

General Guidance on Data Analysis for Development of Maximum Levels (Agenda Item 18)

The EU, as chair of the EWG, introduced the discussion paper, also mentioning additional information provided by other delegations, including the United States, prior to the plenary. To reflect the scope of the project, the United States suggested expanding the title of the work to include "guidance for improved data collection," since some recommendations may be directed to GEMS/Food or those providing data to GEMS/Food rather than to data users. The United States also suggested to delete the criterion which asked to evaluate whether occurrence data reflect the application of Codex/CCCF COPs or good agricultural practices/good manufacturing practices (GAPs/GMPs). The EU indicated that guidance on rejection rates was outside the scope of the guidance. Responding to Nigeria, the EU also indicated that the EWG would take into account concerns that a too strict quality assurance process would prevent use of data from less developed regions.

After further discussion, the committee:

- Agreed to re-establish the EWG, chaired by the EU and co-chaired by Japan, the Netherlands, and the United States, to prepare a paper on general guidance on data analysis for ML development and for improved data collection for consideration at CCCF14; and
- Noted that the guidance will take into account the capacity of the different regions to generate the necessary data.

Priority List of Contaminants and Naturally Occurring Toxicants for Evaluation by JECFA (Agenda Item 19(a))

The United States chaired the Priority In-Session Working Group. The Working Group recommended the following updates to the priority list: inorganic arsenic was revised to arsenic, inorganic and organic (exploratory), and dioxins to dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs. Ciguatoxin was removed from the priority list. The committee requested that the Codex Secretariat ask the Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific (CCNASWP) if they wish to retain scopoletin on the priority list and, if so, when suitable data would be forthcoming. Member countries identified ergot alkaloids, arsenic (inorganic and organic), and dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs as top priorities for the next JECFA assessment, anticipated in 2020.

The WG recommended addition of aflatoxins in peanuts (updated impact assessment) to the priority list so JECFA could plan for a possible updated impact assessment, but the committee deleted the item from the draft priority list at the request of India in light of the decision taken

at CCCF12 and discussion under Agenda Item 2 (Matters Referred to the Committee by the Codex Alimentarius Committee and/or its Subsidiary Bodies) of this session.

Follow-Up Work to the Outcome of JECFA Evaluations (Agenda Item 19(b))

The committee noted that there was no follow-up work to the outcome of JECFA evaluations for consideration at this session.

Forward Work Plan for the Committee on Contaminants in Foods (Agenda Item 20)

The Host Country Secretariat explained that this work plan addresses broadly all areas of work of CCCF. The committee made the following changes to the work plan:

Appendix A: Identification of key staple food/contaminant combinations
The committee considered the approach (i.e., to have a systematic exploration of possible contamination of the identified staple foods and identify if there were key staple food/contaminant combinations that could be a health concern but had not been considered by CCCF). The committee agreed that this could serve as an adequate framework to identify important topics of work and agreed that the host country, JECFA, and the Codex Secretariats would continue work on this matter for further consideration at CCCF14.

Appendix B: Review of existing CCCF standards that may need revision
The committee considered developing a structured approach to review existing standards and formed an EWG, chaired by Canada and co-chaired by Japan and the United States, to prepare a proposal for review of existing CCCF standards for CCCF14. The EU, Canada, and Japan supported structured approach. While supportive, the United States noted that the plan should allow for *ad hoc* suggestions for revision.

Appendix C: Evaluation of implementation of COPs
The committee considered a pilot project through an organization providing technical assistance, such as the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), to evaluate the implementation of the COPs. The United States supported the project in principle, but noted that CCCF, not STDF, should develop criteria for COP compliance. The EU requested a more detailed plan. The committee agreed that a more detailed project proposal would be developed by the Host Country, Codex, and JECFA Secretariats with the assistance of the EU, Kenya, Senegal, and the United States for consideration at CCCF14.

Appendix D: Possible other future topics for CCCF
The committee considered the following future topics: plant toxins (other than pyrrolizidine alkaloids), marine biotoxins, packaging materials or food contact materials in general, identification of key feed commodity/contaminant combinations, and new developments in food production and noted that this appendix had been prepared for the purpose of inventory and no immediate actions would be taken at this time.

Other Business and Future Work (Agenda Item 21)

The committee noted that no other business had been proposed.

Date and Place of the Next Session (Agenda Item 22)

CCCF14 will be held in Utrecht, the Netherlands in or around April 2020.