Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling 38th Session (CCMAS)

Last Meeting: 38th Session, 8 – 12 May 2017, Budapest, Hungary


Next Meeting: 39th Session, TBA

NZ Delegation Report 38th Session:

- New Zealand is to lead an electronic working group to develop a proposal for revision of the General Guidelines on Sampling (CAC/GL 50), designed to be statistically sound while enabling non-statisticians to understand the basis for sampling plans, and including worked examples. The proposal and initial draft revision of the (new) Guidelines will be presented to the next meeting. New Zealand will also develop a template on the selection of practical and statistically-based sampling plans that can be applied across commodities (including those relevant to New Zealand).

- The Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty (CAC/GL 54) are to be revised, and will include examples of estimating measurement uncertainty. New Zealand will participate in the electronic working group.

- A major revision of the Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (Codex Stan 234) is under way, firstly to ensure it is a single, up to date and accurate reference for methods of analysis and sampling; secondly to include a preamble and other relevant information as to the scope and use of the Standard; and thirdly to develop a simplified structure to allow for effective search for methods as well as a permanent and dynamic revision system. New Zealand will participate in the electronic working group.

- The committee endorsed methods for chromium, selenium, molybdenum and total fatty acid profile, and provided information for the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Purposes on methods for trans fatty acids.

- The committee developed guidance information on performance criteria for selection of test methods that use a “sum of components” (for example biotoxin methods), noting that “this should be undertaken with care and also on a case-by-case basis.”

- An electronic working group has been re-established to continue work on the criteria for endorsement of biological methods with specific reference to the mouse bioassay. New Zealand will participate in the electronic working group.