



India Participates in 44th Session of Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

India Advocates for Updated Probiotic Guidelines and Nutrient Standards at Codex Meeting; Receives Global Support

Posted On: 07 OCT 2024 6:37PM by PIB Delhi

India participated in the 44th session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) held in Dresden, Germany from October 2 to October 6, 2024. As a key contributor, India made pivotal interventions on significant agenda items. It provided valuable insights on nutrient reference values for persons aged 6 to 36 months and extended its support to frame harmonized probiotic guidelines for foods and food supplements. Countries like Canada, Chile, New Zealand, and several others backed India's views.

Playing a pivotal part in creating harmonized guidelines for probiotics, India highlighted that the current Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/ World Health Organization (WHO) documents on probiotics are two decades old and need revision in light of scientific advancements. Additionally, India emphasized the lack of international harmonization in probiotic regulation guidelines, which may impede global trade practices. The Committee agreed to revisit these guidelines and requested FAO and WHO to conduct a review of the documents 'Health & Nutrition Properties of Probiotics in Food including powder milk with Live Lactic Acid Bacteria' (2001) & 'Guidelines for the Evaluation of Probiotics in Food' (2002), incorporating a literature review of scientific evidence on probiotics and come up with a new work proposal for reconsideration of CCNFSDU.

In the general principles for establishing nutrient reference values, India opined that the combined NRV-R value for persons from 6-36 months should be determined by calculating the mean value of the two age groups 6 – 12 months and 12 – 36 months, the same was considered and agreed by the committee.

In the discussion on assessing the relative sweetness of carbohydrate sources in the Standard for Follow-up Formula, India disagreed with the EU's proposal for sensory testing, citing a lack of scientific validation for use in national legislation. Supported by the USA, Canada, and others, India's stance contributed to the committee's decision to discontinue the topic for now. It was noted that in the absence of a harmonized method, ISO 5495 or other available methods could still be used.

Delegates from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Women and Child Development advocated for India's stance on various food safety, consumer health, and trade-related issues. During the adoption of the final report, India's suggestions were officially incorporated, marking a significant contribution to shaping global food safety and nutrition standards.

During the session, FAO/WHO announced plans for a Joint Statement on Healthy Diet Principles and shared updates on reviewing the benefits and risks of Alternative Animal Source Foods (A-ASFs). FAO also introduced the new "Food and Diet" domain on its FAOSTAT database. Germany's Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture, Mr. Cem Özdemir, welcomed delegates, stressing the importance of safe food for global food security. The session was chaired by Ms. Martine Püster, with Dr. Carolin Bendadani as co-chair.

MV

HFW/India Joins 44th Codex Nutrition Session/07th October 2024/2

(Release ID: 2062910) Visitor Counter : 653

Read this release in: Urdu