

The Inter-Agency Meeting (IAM) at CCMAS

Connecting International SDOs with Codex Alimentarius

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IAM - Structure



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22 Member Organizations (Standards Development Organizations / SDOs)



- ▶ **CCMAS 9 (1975) – The Need for SDO Coordination and Cooperation with Codex Alimentarius Formally Introduced**

COLLABORATION WITH ISO

25. Dr. Kanizsay, speaking on behalf of ISO, described their work on sampling and also informed the Committee of a recent meeting of representatives of ISO, AOAC and Codex in Budapest at which cooperation between these bodies was discussed. He stressed the need for coordination and cooperation, particularly in the field of sampling, where much work was still to be done at an international level. It was also important to define the specific fields in which, on the basis of the particular competence of the above three bodies, a fruitful cooperation could be achieved. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the central Secretariat of ISO, AOAC and Codex had taken steps to ensure practical cooperation which would further the aims of the Commission.

- ▶ **CCMAS 10 (1977) – A “Compendium of Methods of Analysis” Discussed: CXS-234**

33. In considering the verbal report on the work of the Working Group, which was given by Mr. P. Khan (USA), the delegation of Australia pointed out that it had made available to the Secretariat a compendium of methods of analysis contained in Codex standards, together with a statement concerning the status of endorsement. The delegation added that it was clear that attention must be paid to the outstanding matters.

▶ CCMAS 11 (1979) – The First Mention of IAM in a CCMAS Report

- IAM met prior to CCMAS (consistent with current practice)
- Member SDOs recognized for their ownership of and expertise in methods for commodities
- A list of methods was developed for inclusion in various Codex standards; SDOs take lead role

COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN DEVELOPING METHODS FOR CODEX PURPOSES

74. The Committee had before it a report of an inter-agency secretariat meeting which had taken place 29–30 June 1979.

75. The delegate of ISO informed the Committee that representatives of several international organizations had participated in discussions on a table (Appendix II of the above report) showing a list of methods yet to be developed for inclusion in various Codex standards derived from CX/GEN 79/1. The table had been a compendium of methods of analysis contained in Codex standards and their state of endorsement. Those organizations specialized in developing methods for particular commodities had accepted the role of "lead organizations" in the coordination of the preparation of methods as shown in Appendix II of the above report. At the same time it was decided that assignment of priorities to various methods would not be practical because there was no direct relationship between Codex requirements and current laboratory work.

- ▶ **CCMAS 11 (1979) – The First Mention of IAM in a CCMAS Report, continued...**
 - Progress reported in establishing working relationships within IAM; noted by CCMAS
 - A discussion of methods review and endorsement began

76. The Committee recognized that good progress had been made in establishing working relationships between the organizations concerned.

77. The delegation of Australia referred to document CX/GEN 79/1 and to a compendium of Codex methods prepared by Australia and proposed that it would be eventually necessary to examine these documents in order to see which methods required attention by the Committee and which methods required elaboration by the collaborating international organizations. The observer from NMKL (Nordic Committee on Food Analysis) noted with surprise that an invitation to this meeting had not been issued to their organization which represented five member countries having established official collaboration in the work of elaboration and harmonization of methods of analysis for food.

- ▶ **CCMAS 12 (1981) – Commodity groupings and method development discussed...**
 - Development of methods for specific commodity groups reported
 - ISO provided an inventory of relevant methods; other SDOs invited to do the same
 - The need for ongoing IAM meetings was established

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRD INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS

66. The Committee had before it a Report of the above meeting (Room Document No.1). The report was introduced by the representative of ISO who informed the Committee concerning the deliberations of the Inter-Agency Meeting. The Meeting had received reports by the various International Organizations on progress made in the development of methods for cocoa products, edible ices, fats and oils, foods for special dietary uses, fruit juices, processed fruits and vegetables, processed meat products, sugars, starch hydrolysis products and cereal products. The Meeting had noted that good cooperation existed among the interested International Organizations as regards the development of methods required by Codex. In order to facilitate this work, ISO had presented an inventory of methods so far elaborated by that Organization. This inventory would be up-dated and made available to interested persons and to the participants of the Fourteenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Other Organizations had been invited to prepare similar inventories. The Meeting had also discussed the need for standardizing terminology used in analysis and sampling and the need for harmonizing the approach to international collaborative tests. It had also agreed that there was a need to continue holding sessions of the Inter-Agency Meeting prior to sessions of the CCMAS.

- ▶ CCMAS 12 (1981) – Harmonization of collaborative testing – the need to work together...
 - CCMAS stressed the importance of a harmonized approach to collaborative testing and interpretation of results.

67. As regards the question of harmonization of collaborative testing, the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany indicated that document CX/MAS 81/10 did not cover all aspects relating to the organization of collaborative testing and the statistical evaluation of results. Other aspects could be added to a document eventually prepared on this subject. The delegation of Spain read out a detailed statement concerning collaborative testing in relation to standard ISO 5725 and the document CX/MAS 81/10 and expressed the view that there was a need for IUPAC to give attention to the harmonization of collaborative studies. The delegation of Spain was requested to make its comments available in writing to interested parties and the Codex Secretariat. The delegation of the United States of America stressed the need to harmonize the approach to collaborative tests since such tests were expensive and called for international collaboration as well as a common approach to the interpretation of results. One of the problems in interpreting the results from collaborative tests was the significance of outliers, especially at the $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ level. The delegation of the United States of America expressed the hope that IUPAC would undertake the task of harmonizing collaborative tests.

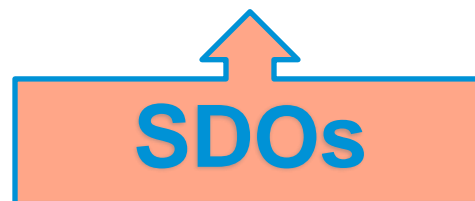
68. The Committee agreed that it was important that the procedures for carrying out collaborative tests and for the interpretation of results be discussed internationally with a view to the elaboration of an internationally acceptable protocol of collaborative testing. It decided that the outcome of the IUPAC conference should be placed before the next session of the Inter-Agency Meeting and before the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

- ▶ Meeting is held in Budapest just prior to CCMAS (and associated WG meetings)
- ▶ Organizations share relevant methods updates
 - New work
 - Involvement in ongoing CXS 234 review and typing activities
 - Upcoming events of interest
- ▶ CCMAS Chair, CAC, FAO, and pWG/eWG Chairs invited to attend and provide updates and input
- ▶ Most recently met June 11, 2023 in Budapest
- ▶ Minutes are shared with the CCMAS plenary as a CRD; discussion led by IAM Chair in plenary

- ▶ Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)
 - Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual:

“The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling should undertake a coordinating role in matters relating to the elaboration of Codex methods of analysis and sampling. The originating committee is, however, responsible for carrying out the Steps of the Procedure.

When it is necessary, the **Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling** should try to ensure elaboration and collaborative testing of methods by other recognized bodies with expertise in the field of analysis.”



–CCMAS Terms of Reference include:

- “...to serve as a **coordinating body for Codex with other international groups** working in methods of analysis and sampling...”
- “...to **specify...Reference Methods of Analysis** and Sampling appropriate to Codex Standards...”
- “...to **consider, amend, if necessary and endorse**, as appropriate, methods of analysis and sampling proposed by Codex (Commodity) Committies...”
- “...to **consider** specific **sampling and analysis problems** submitted to it...”

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SDOs

The Intersection of Codex & SDOs



- ▶ The IAM at CCMAS represents a unique opportunity for Codex members to interact directly with scientific experts regarding methods
 - **Development** of new methods, **identification** of specific method needs and elucidation of **method requirements**
 - Validation of specific SDO methods - SDOs often **do NOT publish proprietary validation / collaborative testing data**; comments and expertise of SDO scientists critical to discussions **in preparation for and at CCMAS**
 - **Typing** of methods for CXS-234; best to involve those intimately familiar with specific method details and proprietary data supporting applicability of methods
 - **Comparison** of methods for revision of CXS-234; important to involve methods experts

- ▶ Ongoing review & update of methods in CXS 234
 - “Discussion Paper on Elaboration of Procedures for Regular Updating of Methods” (CX/MAS 14/35/6; 2014)
 - Need to update references of methods of analysis identified at CCMAS 35
 - Review of prioritized “workable packages” via individual eWGs
 - Methods 5+ years from endorsement date considered for re-endorsement, withdrawal or replacement as needed
 - Work with Commodity Committees (when active) to propose new methods
 - Consistent format and unified document/database of methods
 - IAM participation described in Discussion Paper: “...IAM...worked on the update of methods in the Standard and would continue playing a significant role in the process...”
 - In many cases SDOs own proprietary validation data for these methods – knowledge of this data AND experience with specific methods is critical to the update of CXS 234

- ▶ 2019 – Finalized CCMAS Information Document

“Comprehensive guidance for the process of submission, consideration and endorsement of methods for inclusion in CXS 234”

https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/committee/docs/INF_CCMAS_END_e.pdf

- ▶ Participation in PWG – Endorsement of Methods of Analysis Provisions

- ▶ Source of Expertise related to

- Methods of analysis – Modern and historical
- Method validation
- Collaborative testing
- Commodity stakeholder groups (needs & common practices related to sampling, product analysis, specifications and trade contracts)

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- ▶ Dr. Zsuzsa Farkas, CCMAS Vice-Chair (DFI, Hungary)
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Questions



The standard of trust