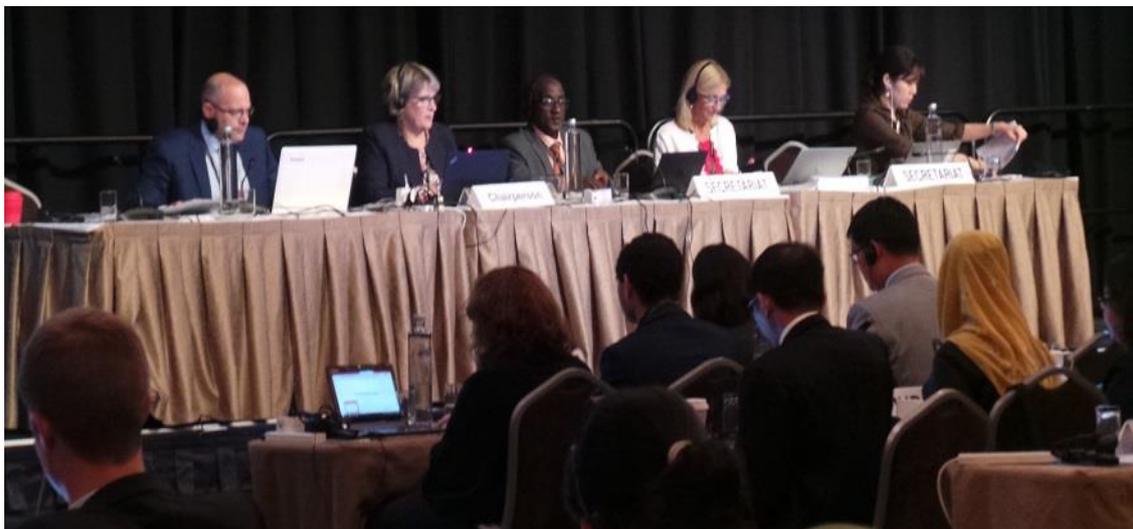


**24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) ( 22<sup>nd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Brisbane, Australia)**



The Session was attended by Forty-one Member countries, one Member organization and four observer organizations.

In the plenary session of CCFICS24, following agenda items of importance for India were discussed:

- **Proposed draft guidance on the use of systems equivalence.** – EWG Chair(New Zealand) informed the Committee that the said agenda item is closely relate to another agenda item which is on “Discussion paper proposing to consolidate and modernize guidance on the use of equivalence” and the EWG Co-Chairs, Chile, New Zealand and the United States of America, submitted CRD12, which contained a proposal for the amendment of the approved project document for the ongoing work on guidance on the use of system equivalence. After the detailed discussion Committee decided to return the proposed draft guidelines to step 2 for redrafting and also decided to start new work on updating and consolidating Codex guidelines related to equivalence and to submit the project document for approval at CAC42.
- **Proposed draft guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates (Revision of the guidelines for design, production, issuance and use of generic official certificates.-** EWG Chair (Netherlands) introduced the report, recalling that discussion on paperless certification had been under way since CCFICS21, in 2014, and emphasizing that the draft guidance was not intended to serve as an implementation manual for paperless certificates, but as a tool to help build confidence and enable countries to go paperless. After detailed discussion on the said agenda it has been decided to return the proposed draft guidelines to step 2 for redrafting and the EWG to continue the drafting of proposed guidance and a PWG, chaired by Netherlands, co-chaired by Australia, has been re-establish, it has been also decided to convene the PWG’s meeting immediately prior to CCFICS25.

- **Proposed draft guidance on regulatory approaches to third party assurance schemes in food safety and fair practices in the food trade.-** EWG Chair (United Kingdom) summarized the relevant background of this item. The Committee held a general discussion followed by a preliminary technical discussion on the proposed draft guidance with a view to determining whether to hold an in-session working group. After detailed discussion the proposed draft principles and guidelines have been forwarded to CAC42 for adoption at Step 5 and EWG to consider comments submitted at step 6 has been established.
- **Discussion paper on food integrity and food authenticity.-** In this agenda, the committee decided to establish an EWG, chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the EU and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which will consider the role of CCFICs with respect to tackling the challenge of food fraud in the context of food safety and fair practices in the food trade and will also conduct a comprehensive analysis of existing relevant Codex texts within and outside of CCFICS to avoid overlapping.