

**41st Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods of Special Dietary Uses
(CCNFSDU41): 24-29 November 2019**

**Discussion Paper on Harmonized Probiotic Guidelines for Use in Foods and Dietary Supplements,
CX/NFSDU 19/41/11, prepared by Argentina**

The International Probiotics Association (IPA) wishes to thank Argentina for redrafting the Discussion Paper on harmonized probiotic guidelines for use in foods and dietary supplements for consideration at CCNFSDU41, under agenda item 11.

IPA believes that the proposal to start new work on probiotic guidelines prepared by Argentina has the potential to be highly significant for the food and food supplement sector.

Probiotics are live microorganisms increasingly used in a wide variety of food applications. The term “probiotics” is used more and more in several different products, with some products not in line with the commonly referenced FAO/WHO definition. The development of harmonized guidelines could be used by the different countries as a reference for minimal criteria for probiotics and will undoubtedly ensure and sustain the quality of probiotic products and facilitate international trade and enable fair and transparent practices. In addition, the term “probiotic” is also used in the Codex Regional Standard for Doogh (CXS 332R-2018) adopted for the Near East region.

IPA therefore supports starting new work to develop Codex guidelines for the use of probiotics in food and food supplements (CX/NFSDU 19/41/11, circulated by the Codex Secretariat), to establish a definition with minimum characterization requirements as well as labelling parameters for probiotics for use as an ingredient in food and dietary supplements on aspects not framed by existing Codex standards.

In this sense, IPA supports the adoption of the Project Document as presented in Appendix 5 of the Discussion Paper on harmonized probiotic guidelines for use in foods and dietary supplements, that is, Codex document CX/NFSDU 19/41/11. However, IPA would like to propose one amendment in Section 3 of the Project Document which deals with the ‘Main Aspects to be Covered’. IPA proposes to replace the paragraph in sub-section ‘iv. Food Labelling’ by a more general text as follows since the identification of the specific labelling parameters under this section would be addressed when drafting the proposed draft guidelines:

iv. Food Labelling

In addition to the provisions for labelling in accordance with the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CXS 1-1985), additional specific labelling requirements for probiotics will be considered. ~~it should be applied the following specific provisions: name of the microorganism(s) (genus, species and strain) mentioned in the list of ingredients; amount of viable cells of total probiotic microorganisms (CFU/g); name of the food; serving size and storage conditions.~~



Subject to CCNFSDU’s approval to start new work on Codex harmonized guidelines for the use of probiotics in food and food supplements, IPA supports the establishment of an electronic Working Group (eWG) to develop the proposed draft Guidelines for discussion at the next session of the CCNFSDU. Should an eWG be established, IPA is keen to actively contribute for this important work, in order to report best practices of the probiotic sector’s stakeholders on the various academic, scientific, regulatory and industry levels from a global perspective.

About IPA

The International Probiotics Association (IPA) is a global non-profit organization bringing together through its membership, the probiotic sector’s stakeholders including but not limited to academia, scientists, health care professionals, consumers, industry and regulators. The IPA’s mission is to promote the safe and efficacious use of probiotics throughout the world. Holding NGO status before Codex Alimentarius, the IPA is also recognized as the unified “Global Voice of Probiotics” around the world.

“The Global Voice of Probiotics”